S4705-1-U

CRIME IN MONTANA

1988

ANNUAL REPORT

Compiled by the

CRIMINAL JUSTICE DATA CENTER

OF THE

MONTANA BOARD OF CRIME CONTROL

Dr. Gordon Browder, Chairman

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Data used in preparation of this publication was compiled at the Criminal Justice Data Center and produced by the Research and Planning Bureau of the Montana Board of Crime Control.

FORWARD

Crime in Montana is an annual report of the Montana Board of Crime Control's Criminal Justice Data Center. It is a statistical representation of the criminal activity occurring in our state during the past year and includes a section on the Montana Youth Courts.

During the state's 1985 Legislative Session a new focus began to emerge for criminal justice; a growing concern for the impact crime has on its victims. Each one of the 56,925 serious crimes reported to our law enforcement agencies last year represents at least one more person to suffer from the trauma of being a crime victim.

A new chapter has been added to **Crime in Montana** this year. The chapter is devoted to a narrative on crime forecasts. In other words, it covers projected crime and the impact it would have on the crime rate had all jurisdictions in Montana reported 100% of the crimes occurring in their jurisdictions. Within this same chapter additional analysis has been provided for the crimes relating to drugs and sex offenses. Typically, this document has centered its attention to Part I crimes, but I feel it is important to cover serious Part II crimes as well. I think you will find this an interesting addition to **Crime in Montana.**

This publication is only the first step in documenting the crime problem in our state and it would not be possible without the voluntary support of the law enforcement agencies who contribute the data.

Edwin Hall, Administrator
Montana Board of Crime Control

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SECTION ONE

MONTANA UNIFORM CRIME REPORTING PROGRAM

INTRODUCTION

This report presents the most complete and accurate information currently available about crime in the State of Montana. It contains an extensive collection of facts and detailed analyses of the prevalence of different types of crime, crime trends and offenses known and arrests made by law enforcement. It is a summary of the nature, extent and location of crime in the state.

The Montana Uniform Crime Reporting program addresses the informational needs of law enforcement administrators, planners, legislators, and local government officials. It also affords citizens an opportunity to assess the state's crime situation.

HISTORY

The Board of Crime Control has been collecting data on criminal activity, arrests and offenses since early in the 1970's. Each year the data collection effort has improved to the point that accuracy of data is at the 95% level. The collection process started with a simple reporting system by individual police agencies in various parts of the state on a trial basis, which resulted in limited data giving only a vague picture of the nature of crime in Montana.

Working in conjunction with federal data collection agencies, and other state agencies a real process started to emerge. The beginning saw a handful of police agencies involved; now there are over 100 reporting agencies.

The Montana Uniform Crime Reporting (MUCR) system evolved from and continues to comply with the Federal Bureau of Investigation's (FBI) national Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) program. The national UCR program came into existence in 1930 as a result of the need for a nationwide and uniform compilation of law enforcement statistics. The Committee of Uniform Crime Records of the International Association of Chiefs of Police developed the UCR program, and Congress passed legislation on June 11, 1930 authorizing the FBI to act as the clearinghouse for crime information. In the late 1960's, with the availability of funds from the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration, individual states began assuming responsibility for direct collection of the UCR data. The number of law enforcement agencies participating in the UCR and related programs grew from 400 in 1930 to over 15,000 by 1981.

Montana became involved in the national UCR reporting program in September, 1978, when the FBI transferred data collection responsibility from its UCR reporting division to the Montana Board of Crime Control's Criminal Justice Data Center. This transfer has enhanced crime data collection by giving the state more control over crime reporting, closer contact with law enforcement agencies, and more detailed information about crime.

TODAY'S PROCESS

General Overview

The crime data contained in this report is initiated by the police departments, sheriff offices and other criminal justice agencies throughout the state. Criminal justice agencies that represent 94% of the state population are reporting criminal activity in their jurisdiction. This means 103 law enforcement agencies are diligently filling out reports and sending them to the central collection point, the Montana Board of Crime Control's Criminal Justice Data Center. The effort put forth by these agencies is most commendable.

MUCR

The MUCR program is comprised of two distinct data base systems. The Offense and Activity system summarizes the types of crimes being committed, unfounded and actual offenses, property stolen and/or recovered by type and values, time and location of offenses, the status of each case, and the number of law enforcement officers killed or assaulted. The Arrest/Custody component records the types of arrests made, and the sex, race, and age of the person arrested. In 1986 the Arrest/Custody system was expanded to collect information on people being held in jails throughout the state.

The transfer of responsibility for data collection from the FBI to the MUCR system has encouraged local law enforcement participation because the MUCR system provides contributors with both monthly and annual summaries of data for the Offense and Activity and Arrest/Custody information systems. Data is furnished voluntarily by county law enforcement agencies, local police departments, and other government agencies. Law enforcement agencies representing approximately 95 percent of the Montana population provided data in 1988.

In addition to the monthly reports to contributors, other reports and publications are compiled from MUCR data. These include the annual Crime in Montana publication and a variety of special reports requested by private and public groups. The MUCR system data is also sent to the FBI for inclusion in the annual FBI publication Crime in the United States.

THE FUTURE OF MUCR

The FBI and the National Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) initiated a joint effort to upgrade the national UCR program. Over the past several years an extensive effort has been made between these two Federal agencies and the various state programs dealing with UCR. The FBI's UCR programs has not been changed since its inception in the 1930's.

The UCR program has always been known as a summary reporting system wherein the various police agencies around the country supply summary data to the FBI which is then published in the annual publication known as "Crime in the United States". Although this publication has been known as an excellent resource document it was felt that something more was needed. Thus, the background leading to the "Enhanced UCR Program" which will be expanded from the summary based system to an Incident Based System called "IBR" for Incident Based Reporting.

The concept of the new IBR program is to capture information relating to an incident and be able to link various components together providing a clearer picture of what is happening with crime across the country. The new system will add information relating to the victim as well as the offender, which has never been a part of the UCR program. This new information should provide the public as well as law enforcement with an improved concept in the nature of criminal incidents.

Montana is one of seventeen (17) states participating in the program with the FBI and BJS. Hopefully, within the next year a number of local law enforcement agencies will join with the state in piloting the new IBR system for the State of Montana. It is anticipated that the process of conversion will be slow. It will be 1990 before a majority of agencies institute a new MUCR/IBR program within their jurisdiction.

OBJECTIVES

The fundamental objectives of the Montana Uniform Crime Reporting program are:

(1) To inform the Governor, Attorney General, Legislature, other governmental officials and the public as to the nature of the crime problem in Montana.

(2) To provide law enforcement administrators with criminal statistics for administrative and operational use.

(3) To determine who commits crimes by age, sex, and race in order to find the proper focus for crime prevention and enforcement.

(4) To provide base data and statistics to help measure the work load of the criminal justice system.

(5) To provide base data and statistics for research to improve the efficiency, effectiveness and performance of criminal justice agencies.

DEFINITIONS

The following definitions are included to assist the reader in fully understanding the information provided in this publication:

Offenses Reported or Known by Police - Offenses or criminal acts that were reported, or became known, to law enforcement as having occurred during the reporting period.

Unfounded or Baseless Offenses - Offenses which are determined to be unfounded, false, or baseless as the result of subsequent information, action, or investigation.

Actual Offenses - The number of actual, verified offenses which is the difference between the Offenses Reported or Known and the Unfounded or Baseless Offenses.

Cleared by Arrest - For MUCR purposes, an offense can be cleared by arrest or by exceptional means. An offense is cleared by arrest when an offender is identified, there is enough evidence to charge him, and he is actually taken into custody. The arrest of one person may clear several offenses and the arrest of several persons may clear one offense. When some element beyond law enforcement control precludes formal charges against the offender, such as the victim's refusal to prosecute or the death of the offender, an offense can be cleared by exceptional means. No distinction is made between cleared by arrest and cleared by exceptional means in this publication.

Crime Index - The crimes of willful homicide, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny/theft, and motor vehicle theft were selected for use as an index on the basis of their serious nature, their frequency of occurrence and the reliability of reporting from citizens to law enforcement agencies. The crime index is the total number of these offenses that comes to the attention of law enforcement agencies.

Crime Rate - The crime rate indicates the number of Index Crimes per unit of population, generally per 100,000 population. It should be noted that the rate only takes into consideration the numerical factor of population and does not incorporate any of the other elements which contribute to the amount of crime in a given community.

The crime rate is obtained by dividing the total number of Index Crimes by the population or estimated population and multiplying the answer by 100,000:

$$\frac{\text{Number of Index Crimes}}{\text{Population of Law Enforcement Jurisdiction}} \times 100{,}000 = \text{Crime Rate}$$

The population data used in this report is provided by the U.S. Bureau of the Census, and the FBI. The figures are based on the latest population projections available.

Updated Data - Any data published here concerning figures for prior years supercedes those in previous reports.

Percent Rounding - Percentages shown in this publication may not add to 100 due to rounding.

MUCR CRIME CLASSIFICATIONS

Reporting uniformity between law enforcement agencies depends upon the proper classification of offenses by the agencies. The MUCR system follows the basic guidelines for classifying offenses as formulated by the Uniform Crime Reporting Section of the FBI. It must be emphasized that the following classifications are not meant to be legal definitions of offenses. The classifications may differ considerably in some cases from the legal definitions as they are written in the Montana Code Annotated. The purpose of the FBI classifications is to establish a uniform statewide and national system for classifying similar offenses even though legal definitions may vary from state to state.

THE SEVEN MAJOR OFFENSES

Seven crimes are recognized as being the most serious crimes in our society and the most likely to be reported to law enforcement. These are called the Seven Major Crimes, or the Part I Offenses. The MUCR system divides these crimes into "Crimes of Violence" and "Crimes Against Property":

Part I Offenses - The Seven Major Crimes

Crimes of Violence .....

Homicide - The willful killing of one human being by another.

Rape - The carnal knowledge of a person, forcibly and/or against that person's will, and all attempts to commit forcible rape.

Robbery - The taking, or attempting to take, anything of value under confrontational circumstances from the care, custody or control of another person by force or threat of force or violence and/or by putting the victim in fear of immediate harm.

Aggravated Assault - An unlawful attack by one person upon another wherein the offender uses a weapon or displays it in a threatening manner, or the victim suffers obvious severe or aggravated bodily injury involving apparent broken bones, loss of teeth, possible internal injury, severe laceration or loss of consciousness.

Crimes against Property .....

Burglary - The unlawful entry into a building or other structure with the intent to commit a felony or a theft.

Larceny/Theft - The unlawful taking, carrying, leading, or riding away of property from the possession, or constructive possession, of another person.

Motor Vehicle Theft - The theft or attempted theft of a motor vehicle.

Many Part II Offenses are reported in **Crime in Montana**. They encompass other crimes which, although serious, are not part of the Seven Major Crimes. These Part II Offenses are listed below:

Part II Offenses

Negligent Manslaughter	Vandalism
Other Assaults	Weapons
Arson	Prostitution
Forgery and Counterfeiting	Sex Offenses
Fraud	Narcotic Drug Laws
Embezzlement	Gambling
Stolen Property	Offenses Against the Family

CRIME FACTORS

The amount and type of crime reported in **Crime in Montana** is based upon the number of reported offenses and does not measure those offenses unknown to the law enforcement community. A considerable volume of crime is not reported to law enforcement agencies. Many crimes are unreported because victims are unaware they have been victimized or have themselves been participants in illegal activity. Unidentified crimes can include, but are not limited to, buying stolen property, fraud, embezzlement, and shoplifting. Illegal activity requiring victim participation can include prostitution and narcotics activity. Other reasons crimes are unreported are that victims believe there is very little that can be done to catch the perpetrator, they fear the publicity of a police investigation, or the crime was too personal or private to report.

The following factors can also influence the type and volume of criminal activity in the state:

Density and size of the community;
Demographic characteristics of the population;
Economic status of the population;
Influence on population stability by seasonal workers, tourism, etc.;
Educational, recreational, and religious characteristics of the population;
Effective strength of local law enforcement agencies;
Policies of prosecuting officials and the courts; and,
Public attitudes toward laws and law enforcement.

SECTION TWO

CRIME IN MONTANA

1988 MONTANA CRIME CLOCK

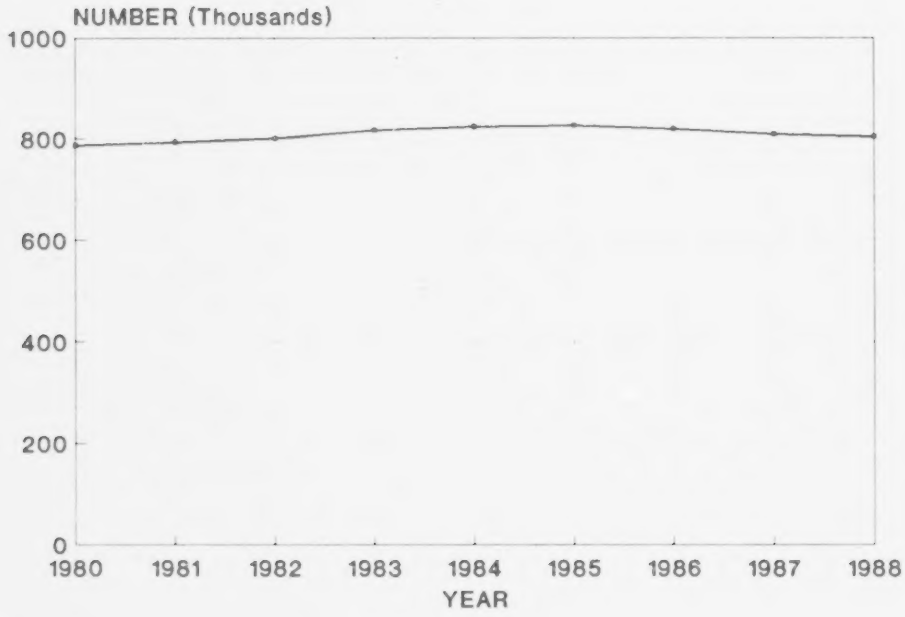
ONE VIOLENT CRIME EVERY
9 HRS 23 MIN

- ONE HOMICIDE EVERY 17 DAYS 9 HRS
- ONE RAPE EVERY 2 DAYS 22 HRS
- ONE ROBBERY EVERY 2 DAYS 1 HR
- ONE AGGRAVATED ASSAULT EVERY 14 HRS 20 MIN

ONE PROPERTY CRIME EVERY
16 MIN 19 SEC

- ONE BURGLARY EVERY 1 HR 38 MIN
- ONE LARCENY EVERY 21 MIN 43 SEC
- ONE MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT EVERY 5 HRS 12 MIN

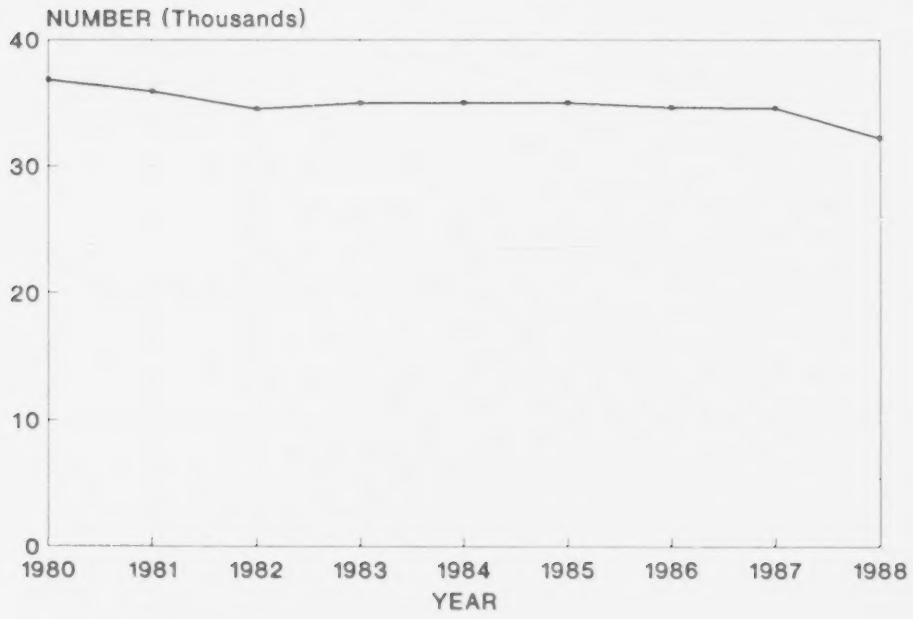
POPULATION



Population is estimated in most years based on FBI and U. S. Bureau of Census projections. The chart shows a steady growth over the first five years, with a slight decline between 1985 and 1988. The population from the census taken in 1980 was set at 786,415 and increased to 804,000 in 1988.

Population comparisons are used throughout the text to show crime rate, number of crimes per 100,000 population, and other analyses of crime in Montana.

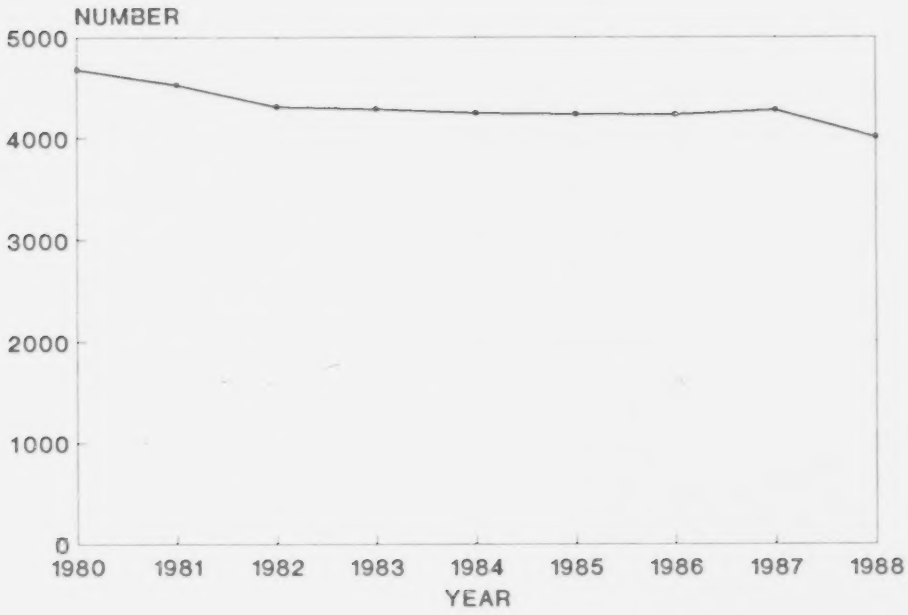
INDEX



Total crime illustrated includes only the seven (7) major crimes: 1) homicide; 2) rape; 3) robbery; 4) assault; 5) burglary; 6) larceny; and, 7) motor vehicle theft.

The seven (7) major crimes accounted for 32,183 offenses in 1988. Crimes of Violence numbered 934 at 2.9 percent of the total, while crimes against property were reported at 31,249 which is 97.1 percent of the total.

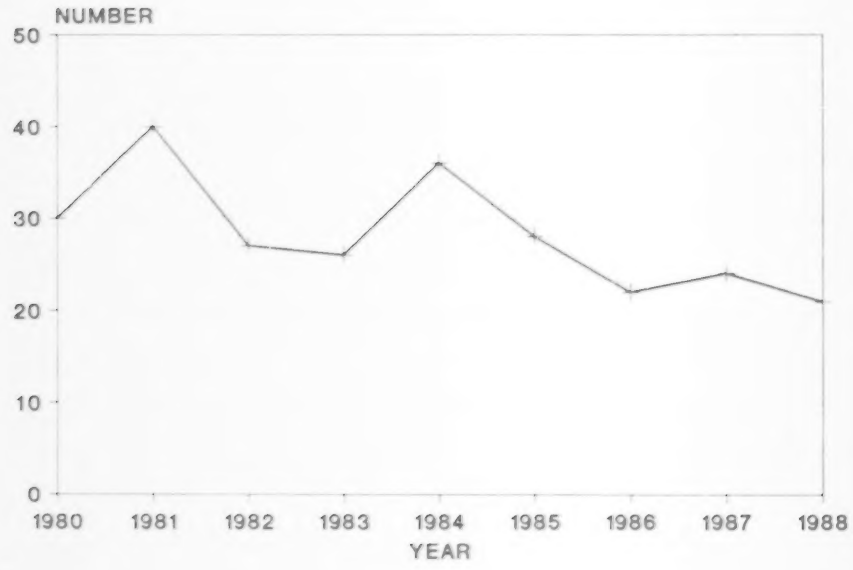
RATE



Crime rate is a standard of measurement used to provide a uniform process of statistical analysis of crime in any given area. The crime rate is useful when comparing jurisdictions with unequal populations.

The chart above indicates a trend declining over the past nine (9) years. The base year of 1980 had a crime rate of 4,678.3 compared to the 4,002.9 rate in 1988. Since crime rate was based on the reported offenses and total state population, the rate listed may be slightly less than actual. As will be noted, this is the lowest crime rate in the 80's. The calculated average for the period from 1980 to 1988 would be in the 4,306.2 range.

HOMICIDE



Homicide is defined as the willful (non-negligent) killing of one human being by another, except in those cases classified as justifiable homicides. Under the UCR definitions, justifiable homicides are specifically limited to the killing of an offender by a police officer in the line of duty or the killing of a felon by a private citizen. This definition does not take into consideration the findings of a coroner's jury or court. Suicides are not defined as homicides under UCR. Attempts to commit homicide are classified as aggravated assault.

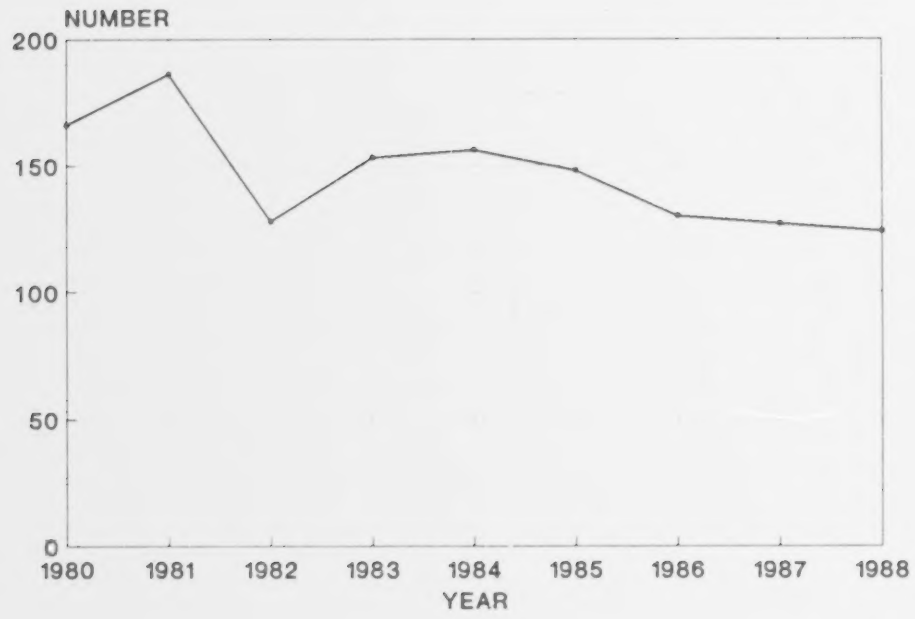
1988 SUMMARY

A total of 21 homicides was reported in 1988. During this year, the number of homicides decreased 12.5 percent compared to those reported in 1987.

There were 16 homicides cleared by arrest or exceptionally cleared, for a clearance rate of 76.2 percent statewide.

Homicides accounted for 2.2 percent of all violent crimes and .07 percent of the total crime index. The homicide rate in Montana was .3 per 10,000 population.

RAPE



Forcible Rape is defined as the carnal knowledge of a female through the use or threat of force. Assaults to rape or attempts to commit rape are included in this category. One offense is counted for each victim of rape. Statutory rapes and other types of sexual assaults are not counted as rapes under the UCR program.

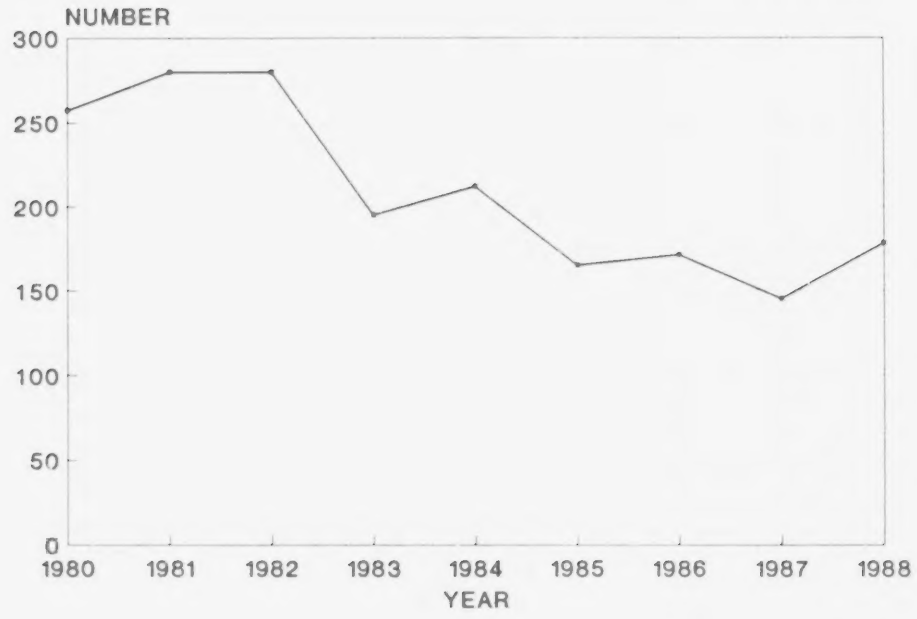
1988 SUMMARY

A total of 124 rapes was reported in 1988. During this year, rapes decreased 2.4 percent compared to those reported in 1987.

There were 69 rapes cleared by arrest, or exceptionally cleared, amounting to a clearance rate of 55.6 percent statewide.

Rapes accounted for 13.3 percent of all violent crimes and .39 percent of the total crime index. The rape rate in Montana was 1.5 per 10,000.

ROBBERY



Robbery is defined as the taking or attempting to take anything of value from the care, custody, or control of a person or persons by force or threat of force or violence and/or by putting the victim in fear. Robbery is a violent crime in which the element of personal confrontation between the victim and offender is present. Attempts to rob are included in the robbery count. One robbery is counted for each distinct operation, regardless of the number of victims present at the time.

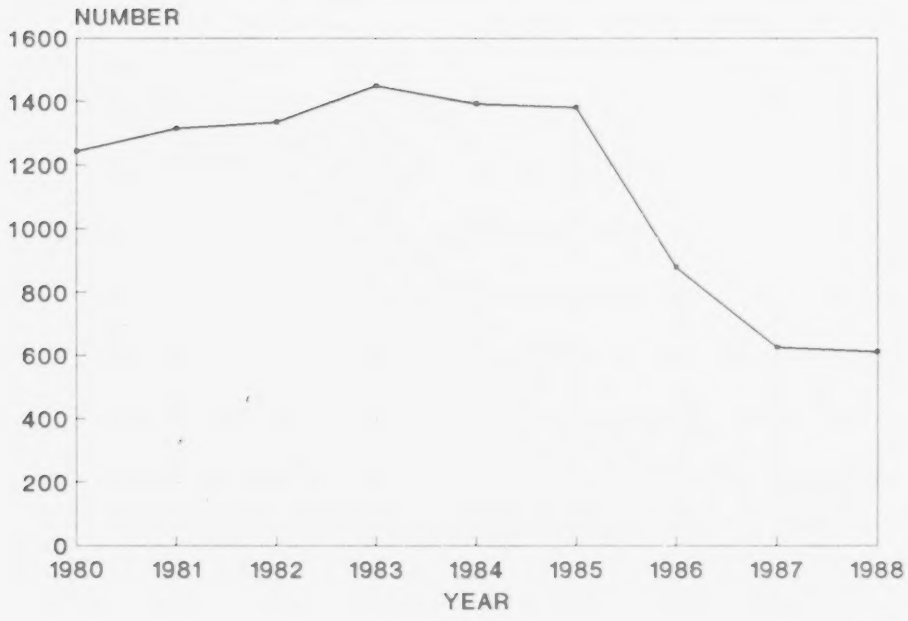
1988 SUMMARY

A total of 178 robberies was reported in 1988. During this year, robberies increased 22.8 percent compared to those reported in 1987.

There were 50 robberies cleared by arrest or exceptionally cleared, amounting to a clearance rate of 28.1 percent.

Robberies accounted for 19.1 percent of all violent crimes and .55 percent of the total crime index. The robbery rate in Montana was 2.2 per 10,000 population.

AGGRAVATED ASSAULT



Aggravated Assault is defined as an unlawful attack by one person upon another for the purpose of inflicting severe or aggravated bodily injury. This type of assault usually is accompanied by the use of a weapon or by means likely to produce death or great bodily harm.

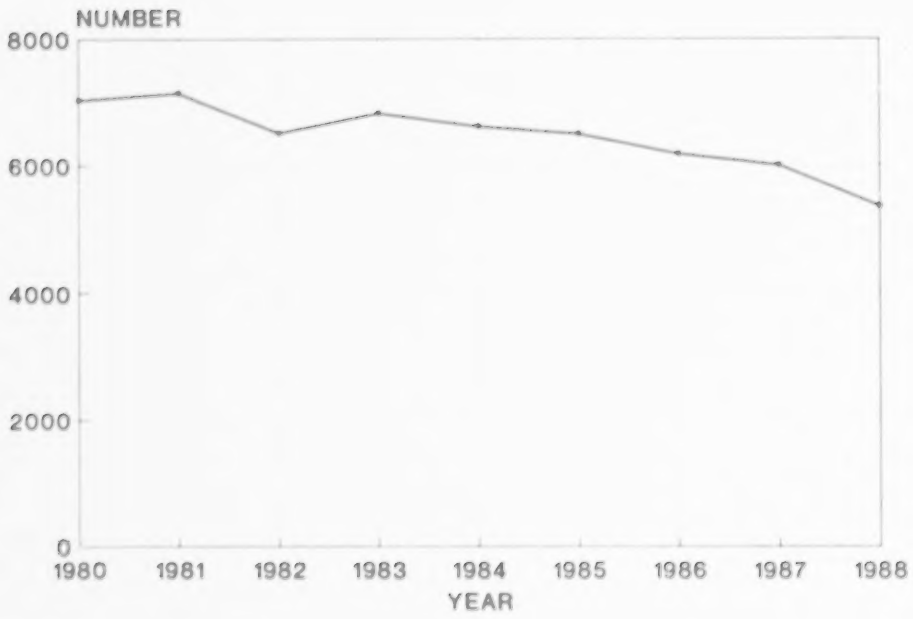
1988 SUMMARY

A total of 611 aggravated assaults was reported in 1988. During this year, aggravated assaults decreased 2.2 percent from the 1987 total.

There were 351 aggravated assaults cleared by arrest or exceptionally cleared for a clearance rate of 57.4 percent statewide.

Aggravated assault accounted for 65.4 percent of all violent crimes and 1.9 percent of the total crime index. The aggravated assault rate in Montana was 7.6 per 10,000 population.

BURGLARY



Burglary is defined as the unlawful entry of a structure to commit a felony or theft.

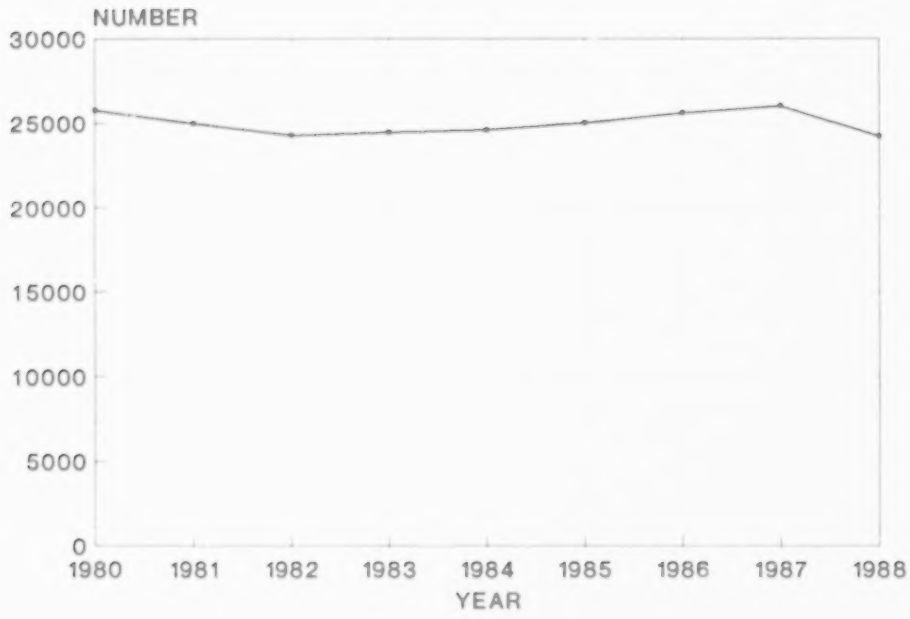
1988 SUMMARY

A total of 5,359 burglaries was reported in 1988. During the reporting year burglaries decreased 10.7 percent from the 1987 total.

There were 666 burglaries cleared by arrest or exceptionally cleared for a clearance rate of 12.4 percent statewide.

Burglary accounted for 17.1 percent of all property crimes and 16.7 percent of the total crime index. The burglary rate in Montana was 66.7 per 10,000 population.

LARCENY



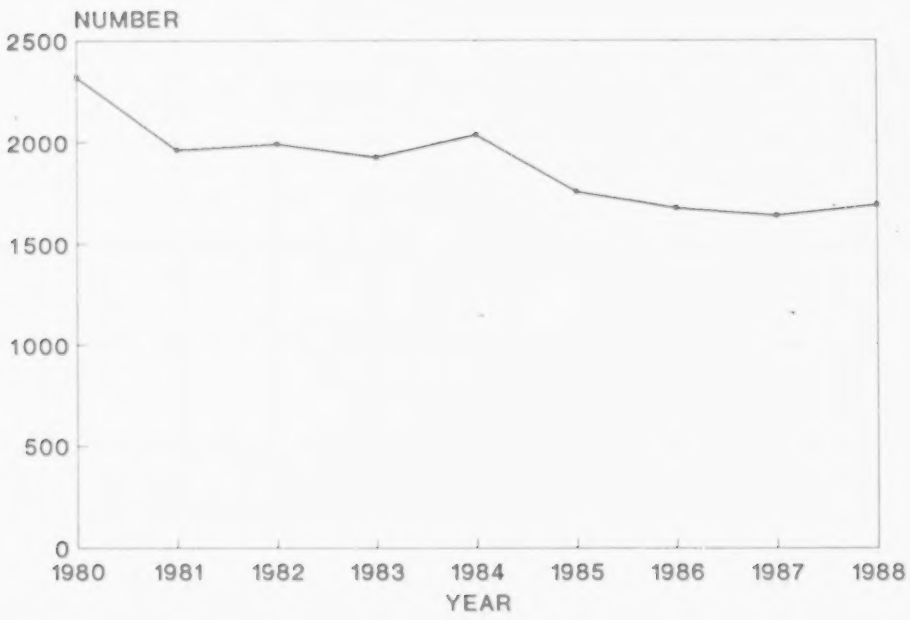
Larceny/theft is defined as the unlawful taking, carrying, or riding away of property from the possession or constructive possession of another. It includes crimes such as shoplifting, pocket-picking, etc., in which no use of force, violence or fraud occurs.

1988 SUMMARY

The number of crimes classified as larceny reached 24,203 in 1988. This was a slight decrease of 6.9 percent over the past year. There were 4,726 larcenies cleared by arrest or exception in 1988, which is a 19.5 percent clearance rate on a statewide basis.

Larceny accounted for 77.5 percent of all property crimes and 75.2 percent of the total crime index. The larceny/theft rate in Montana was 301.0 per 10,000 population.

MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT



Motor vehicle theft is defined as the theft or attempted theft of a motor vehicle.

1988 SUMMARY

A total of 1,687 motor vehicle thefts was reported in 1988. During the reporting year motor vehicle thefts increased 3.1 percent from 1987.

There were 429 motor vehicle thefts cleared by arrest or exception with a 25.4 percent clearance rate statewide.

Motor vehicle thefts accounted for 5.4 percent of all property crimes, and 5.2 percent of the total crime index. The motor vehicle theft rate in Montana was 21.0 per 10,000 population.

SECTION THREE

REPORTED OFFENSES

OFFENSES

The 1988 state summary of offenses known to the police presents a breakdown of the numbers of offenses reported to law enforcement agencies, unfounded or baseless offenses reported, actual offenses, and offenses cleared by arrest. The Cleared by Arrest Under 18 represents only juvenile arrests. The Percent of Actual Offenses Cleared by Arrest is the percent of total offenses, adult and juvenile, cleared by arrest.

1988
STATE SUMMARY OF
OFFENSES KNOWN TO THE POLICE

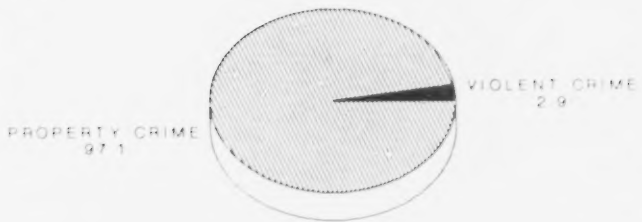
	Offenses Reported Or Known By Police	Unfounded Offenses	Total Actual Offenses	Cleared By Arrest	%Actual Offenses Cleared By Arrest
Homicide	21	-	21	16	76.2
Rape	145	21	124	69	55.6
Robbery	187	9	178	50	28.1
Aggravated Assault	638	27	611	351	57.4
Total Violent	**991**	**57**	**934**	**486**	**52.0**
Burglary	5,610	251	5,359	666	12.4
Larceny	24,857	654	24,203	4,726	19.5
Motor Vehicle Theft	1,887	200	1,687	429	25.4
Total Property	**32,354**	**1,105**	**31,249**	**5,821**	**18.6**
TOTAL PART I	**33,345**	**1,162**	**32,183**	**6,307**	**19.6**
Negligent Manslaughter	2		2	2	100.0
Other Assaults	5,000	127	4,873	2,298	47.2
Arson	152	9	143	44	30.8
Forgery	1,061	24	1,037	344	33.2
Fraud	1,604	47	1,557	512	32.9
Embezzlement	53		53	18	34.0
Stolen Property	93	8	85	25	29.4
Vandalism	10,385	199	10,186	1,303	12.8
Weapons	506	52	454	141	31.1
Prostitution	28		28	16	57.1
Sex Offenses	1,603	70	1,533	407	26.5
Narcotics	1,381	21	1,360	932	68.5
Gambling	51		51	33	64.7
Offenses Against Family	554	78	476	112	23.5
TOTAL PART II	**22,473**	**635**	**21,838**	**6,187**	**28.3**
GRAND TOTAL	**55,818**	**1,797**	**54,021**	**12,494**	**23.1**

CRIME IN MONTANA

From 1987 to 1988:

- There was a 6.27 percent decrease in the rate per 100,000 population of crime index offenses reported.
- There was a 9.2 percent decrease in the rate for violent crimes.
- There was a 6.5 percent decrease in the rate for property crimes.

Violent Crime vs. Property Crime



Of the 934 violent crimes reported:

- Willful homicide accounted for 2.2 percent
- Forcible rape accounted for 13.3 percent
- Robbery accounted for 19.1 percent
- Aggravated assault accounted for 65.4 percent

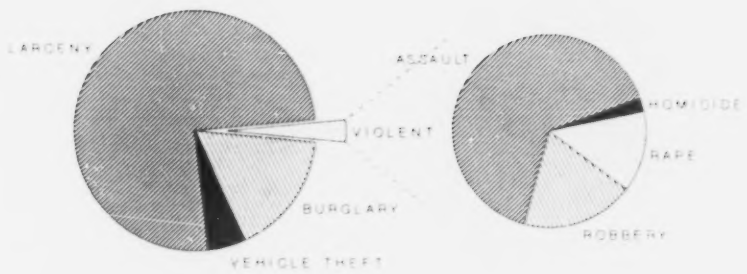
Of the 31,249 property crimes reported:

- Burglary accounted for 17.1 percent
- Larceny/theft accounted for 77.5 percent
- Motor vehicle theft accounted for 5.4 percent

CRIME INDEX PROFILE

The pie chart below shows the proportion of each index crime to the total of all 1988 index crimes. The three property crimes, burglary, larceny/theft and motor vehicle theft, account for 97.1 percent of all index crimes. The violent crimes, homicide, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault, account for 2.9 percent of all index crimes.

1988
CRIME INDEX PROFILE



	Number	% of Total
Homicide	21	.07
Rape	124	.39
Robbery	178	.55
Assault	611	1.90
Burglary	5,359	16.65
Larceny	24,203	75.20
Motor Vehicle Theft	1,687	5.24
TOTAL INDEX	**32,183**	**100.00%**

1988 - CRIME RATE
SEVEN MAJOR INDEX CRIMES

According to the U.S. Bureau of The Census, Montana's estimated population in 1988 was 804,000. This is the population figure used in calculating the crime rates in this publication.

VIOLENT CRIMES			CRIMES AGAINST PROPERTY		
Index Offenses	**Number of Actual Offenses**	**Rate per 100,000 Population**	**Index Offenses**	**Number of Actual Offenses**	**Rate Per 100,000 Population**
Homicide	21	2.6	Burglary	5,359	666.5
Rape	124	15.4	Larceny	24,203	3,010.3
Robbery	178	22.1	MV Theft	1,687	209.8
Assault	611	76.0			
Violent	**934**	**116.17**	**Property**	**31,249**	**3,886.7**
			TOTAL	**32,183**	**4,002.9**

The 1988 Montana crime rate is 4,002.9. This means that 4,002.9 of every 100,000 Montana residents were victims of a major crime in 1988. In 1988 there were:

4,002.9 crimes per 100,000 persons
400.2 crimes per 10,000 persons
40.0 crimes per 1,000 persons
4.0 crimes per 100 persons

The probability of being a crime victim in Montana for the year 1988 was 1 out of each 25 persons.

CLEARANCES

An offense is considered cleared when a law enforcement agency has identified an offender, gathered sufficient evidence, filed a charge, and he is actually taken into custody. The arrest of one person can clear several crimes or conversely, several persons may be arrested in the process of clearing one crime.

The following illustration shows the percentage of actual offenses cleared by arrest. Note that property crime, burglary, larceny/theft, and motor vehicle theft, have the lowest percentages of clearance, while violent crimes have the highest percentages of clearance.

PERCENTAGE OF ACTUAL OFFENSES
CLEARED BY ARREST - 1988
SEVEN INDEX CRIMES

Crime Incidence Comparison

A comparison of the total number of crimes reported provides a measure of the fluctuation in criminal activity between 1987 and 1988.

The number of index crimes decreased by 2,368 between 1987 and 1988. The overall incidence of crime changed by 6.9 percent between 1987 and 1988.

CRIME INCIDENCE COMPARISON
1987 - 1988

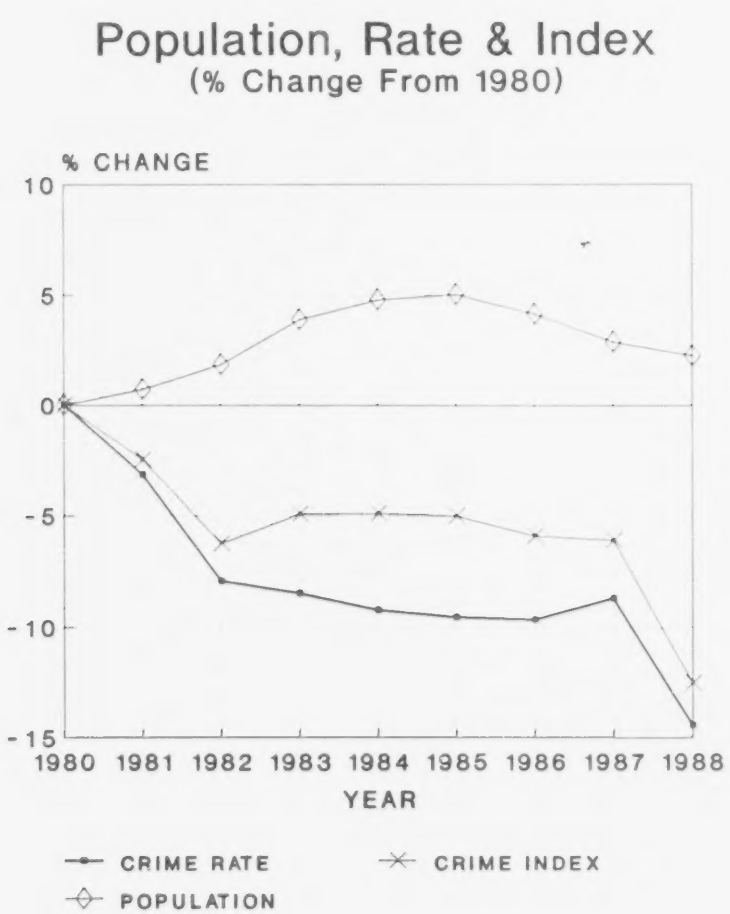
Offense	1987	1988	Percent Change
Homicide	24	21	-12.5
Rape	127	124	-2.4
Robbery	145	178	+22.8
Aggravated Assault	625	611	- 2.2
Total Violent Crimes	**921**	**934**	**+ 1.4**
Burglary	6,003	5,359	-10.7
Larceny/Theft	25,990	24,203	- 6.9
Motor Vehicle Theft	1,637	1,687	+ 3.1
Total Offenses Against Property	**33,630**	**31,249**	**- 7.1**
Total Seven Major Offenses	**34,551**	**32,183**	**- 6.9**
Negligent Manslaughter	3	2	-33.3
Other Assaults	4,188	4,873	+16.3
Arson	147	143	- 2.7
Forgery & Counterfeiting	1,173	1,037	-11.6
Fraud	1,940	1,557	-19.7
Embezzlement	35	53	+51.4
Stolen Property	98	85	-13.3
Vandalism	11,452	10,186	-11.1
Weapons	331	454	+37.2
Prostitution	19	28	+47.4
Sex Offenses	1,424	1,533	+ 7.7
Drugs	1,046	1,360	+30.0
Gambling	44	51	+15.9
Offenses Against the Family	474	476	+ .4
Total Part II Offenses	**22,374**	**21,838**	**- 2.4**
GRAND TOTAL	**56,925**	**54,021**	**- 5.1**

CRIME AND POPULATION GROWTH TRENDS

The crime rate and population growth trends for the past eleven years are shown below. The crime index reflects the actual number of crimes reported to law enforcement.

In 1980, 36,791 index crimes were recorded for a crime rate of 4,678.3 per 100,000 with a total population of 786,400. By 1988, the number of index crimes had dropped to 32,183, and the crime rate reduced to 4,002.9 with an estimated population of 804,000. The 1988 figures represent a 12.5 percent decrease in the number of index crimes, a 14.4 percent decrease in the crime rate, and a 2.24 percent increase in the population over the 1980 figures.

The crime index and crime rate figures have experienced a relatively smaller percentage of change than the population has over the eleven year period. The crime index and crime rates have shown sharp, but sporadic decreases over the period while the state population has shown a slight, but steady increase through 1985, and then a small decrease each year thereafter.



SECTION FOUR

TRENDS

CRIME TRENDS

Crime reporting in Montana is strictly voluntary. Because of this, some agencies do not participate at all while some may report for a partial year. The Montana Board of Crime Control (MBCC) encourages reporting but does not press the issue.

In reporting crime throughout this book, the MBCC makes some basic assumptions that need to be explained. First, all crime rates are based on the assumption that all crimes are reported from all jurisdictions; thus, the total population is used to calculate the crime rate for each of the separate reporting jurisdictions and the state as a whole. This may be slightly misleading since not all jurisdictions report, nor do all of them report for the full year.

This may be more understandable if we employ real examples. The population for all reporting jurisdictions, including agencies where crime can be projected, totals 767,409 which is 95.4% of the state's population base. A very respectable reporting percentage. Eleven (11) of the fifty-six (56) counties are classified as non-reporting, which are mostly low population counties. Only three of the non-reporting counties have a population in excess of 6,000. All other non-reporting counties have less than 3,000 population.

Total index crimes reported for 1988 totaled 32,183. However, this figure is lower than the total actual crime index level due to the factors described above. A closer actual crime index figure can be calculated using the prior seven years (1980-1987) as support data for projecting crime for agencies that have submitted data in the past. Determining the average crime index figure for reporting agencies during past reporting periods, correlating that with 1988 data, then estimating crime levels for non-reporting agencies, or partial reporting agencies, the projected crime index total would be 33,769. Comparing reported crimes to projected crimes it can be seen that 95.3% of all crimes are reported.

Crime rate in this document is based on the total crimes reported calculated by total population rather than the population of the reporting agencies. In Montana during 1988 there were 32,183 index crimes reported for a total state population of 804,000. This calculates to a 4,002.9 crime rate per 100,000 population, the calculation used on a national comparative scale. Calculating the crime rate based on the population of the actual reporting jurisdictions, and using only the reported crime, the crime rate would be 4,193.7. Expanding that one step further and calculating the crime rate using the projected crime index and the population for actual reporting agencies, it would raise the crime rate to 4,400.4. Still a very respectable level of crime for Montana. As an example, the F.B.I. reported that in 1987 there were only 16 states that had a crime rate lower than 4,400/100,000.

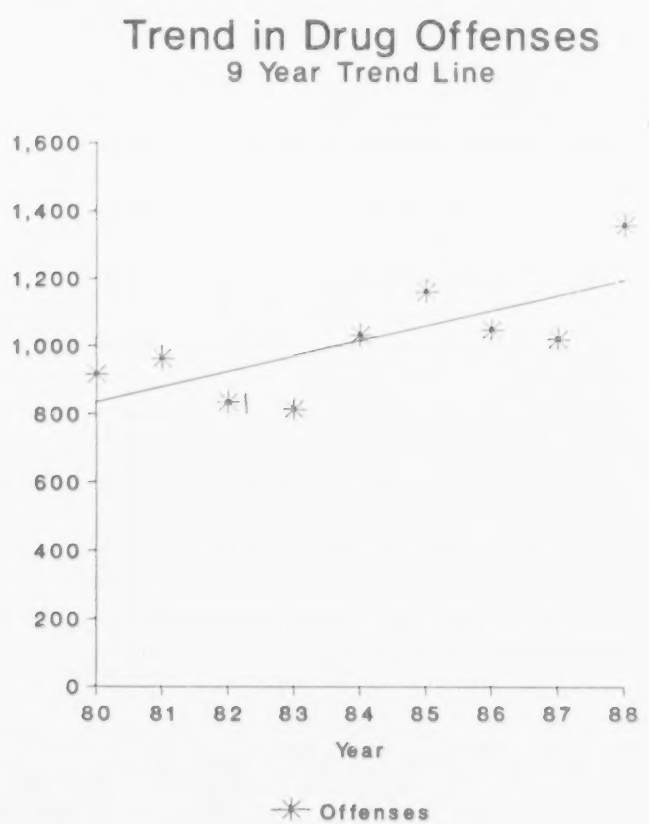
One further projection could be made to include non-reporting agencies. The projection calculation is a simple one of taking the total crimes reported and projecting that to include the total population of 804,000. This obviously assumes that crimes occur in all jurisdictions at the same rate. Looking at the variation in reported crimes from different counties we know this not to be true. The reported crime index figure of 32,183 would raise to 35,379 which would keep the crime rate at 4,400/100,000.

Obviously, three figures could be used to calculate the crime rate. The most accurate of the three would be to use the projected crime index with the population of reporting jurisdictions.

	1988 Actual Reported	1988 by Reporting Agencies	1988 Projected Crime Index	1988 Total Projection
Population	804,000	767,409	767,409	804,000
Crime Index	32,183	32,183	33,769	35,379
Crime Rate	4,002.9	4,193.7	4,400.4	4,400.4

DRUG OFFENSES
A NINE YEAR TREND

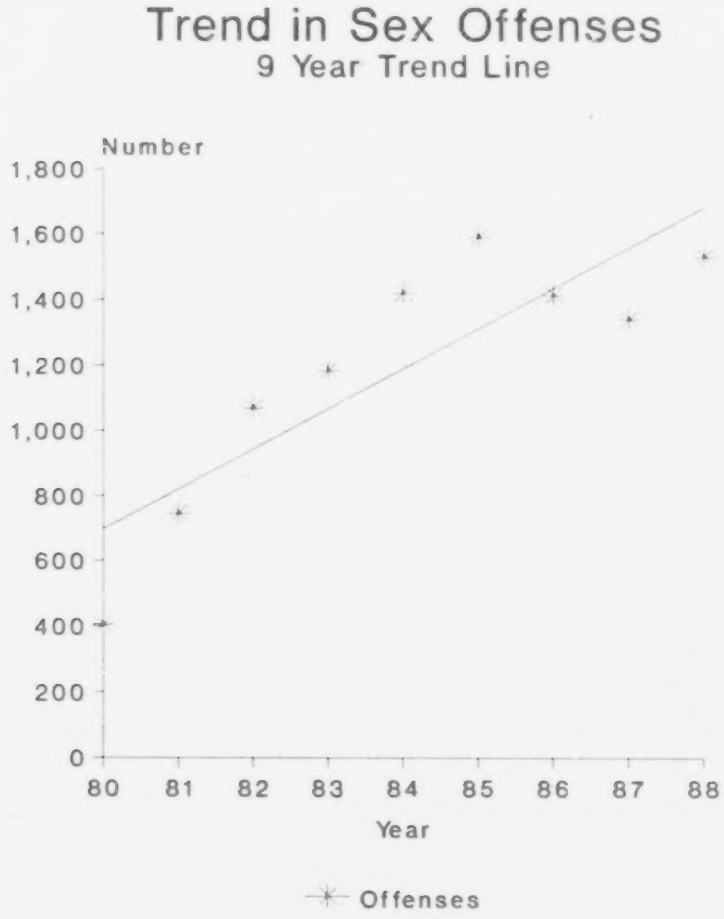
In this issue of Crime In Montana we are highlighting issues and trends which are important to Montana and the nation. Drug abuse is one of those key issues we hear about almost daily. In the past drug offenses have been reported as Part II crimes, which does not diminish their seriousness, but which tends to hide the trend shown in the following chart as readers often focus on the Seven Major Crimes of Part I. The trend is quite clear. Montana is reporting a 48.3% increase in drug offenses from 1980 to 1988. The reported increase in drug offenses has not gone unanswered. In 1986 Congress pass the Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1986 which provided Montana with the resources to fund several anti-drug abuse efforts across the state. In 1988, the Anti-Drug Abuse Act was reauthorized by Congress and Montana continues to support law enforcement, prosecution and treatment efforts through this Act.



SEX OFFENSES --
A NINE YEAR TREND

The reports of sex offenses since 1980 also indicates the rather dramatic rising trend line illustrated in the chart below.

In general, the crime rates have been showing slight decreases in Montana. Like drug offenses, sex crimes show a contrary, increasing, trend. Although sex crimes, like drug crimes, are categorized as Part II, we think it is important to emphasize these contrary patterns lest all the attention be given to the Part I offenses. Between 1980 and 1988 the reports of sex offenses increased 277.6%. The years 1986 and 1987 showed a slight downturn from the all time high of 1,591 offenses reported in 1985 but the unfortunate trend remains one of steep increases year to year. The cry for attention to the problem posed through sex offenses does not seem as high pitched as the cries about the drug problem, but the chart clearly shows it should be.



SECTION FIVE

AGENCY REPORTS

AGENCY REPORTS

This section contains a summary of offenses reported to each law enforcement agency. If the crime rates appear to be extreme for some jurisdictions, the cause could be a low population within that jurisdiction. In communities with low populations any fluctuation in the number of crimes has a major impact on the crime rate. Seasonal variations in population can have a marked influence on crime rates, when the permanent population is used as the base figure for computation.

SUMMARY

The 1988 crime rate for each reporting county in Montana is listed below.

CRIME RATE BY COUNTY*
1988 Ranking

Rank	County	Crime Rate	Rank	County	Crime Rate
1.	CASCADE	6241.6	29.	PONDERA	1510.5
2.	DEER LODGE	6051.8	30.	POWDER RIVER	1488.6
3.	MISSOULA	5853.0	31.	SANDERS	1476.1
4.	YELLOWSTONE	5828.9	32.	STILLWATER	1413.0
5.	LEWIS & CLARK	5635.2	33.	LIBERTY	1313.5
6.	SILVER BOW	5178.2	34.	ROSEBUD	1301.0
7.	FLATHEAD	4963.9	35.	WHEATLAND	1281.5
8.	LINCOLN	4578.9	36.	TETON	1254.5
9.	HILL	4203.2	37.	GOLDEN VALLEY	1190.5
10.	BROADWATER	4082.7	38.	CHOUTEAU	1059.0
	STATE	**4002.9**	39.	DAWSON	834.4
11.	PARK	3929.6	40.	DANIELS	774.6
12.	GRANITE	3394.3	41.	BLAINE	729.7
13.	ROOSEVELT	3074.7	42.	BIG HORN	723.2
14.	GALLATIN	2867.9	43.	FALLON	719.2
15.	VALLEY	2810.0	44.	WIBAUX	619.7
16.	PHILLIPS	2573.2	45.	MCCONE	120.8
17.	CUSTER	2513.5	46.	JUDITH BASIN	80.5
18.	FERGUS	2480.6	47.	MINERAL	0.
19.	RICHLAND	2480.0	48.	MEAGHER	0.
20.	LAKE	2301.6	49.	BEAVERHEAD	0.
21.	MUSSELSHELL	2282.4	50.	GLACIER	0.
22.	RAVALLI	2165.7	51.	PETROLEUM	0.
23.	SWEET GRASS	2046.1	52.	TREASURE	0.
24.	CARBON	1965.3	53.	GARFIELD	0.
25.	SHERIDAN	1957.1	54.	CARTER	0.
26.	MADISON	1819.5	55.	POWELL	0.
27.	TOOLE	1800.9	56.	PRAIRIE	0.
28.	JEFFERSON	1577.1			

AGENCY	1983 POPULATION	CRIME RATE	CRIME INDEX	HOMICIDE	RAPE	ROBBERY	ASSAULT	BURGLARY	LARCENY	MVTHEFT
BEAVERHEAD										
Beaverhead S. O.	4327	0.0	DID	NOT	REPORT					
Dillon	4015	0.0	DID	NOT	REPORT					
TOTAL—	8342	0.0								
BIG HORN										
Big Horn S. O.	10924	723.2	79	0	0	0	10	17	41	11
TOTAL—	10924	723.2	79	0	0	0	10	17	41	11
BLAINE										
Blaine S. O.	6852	729.7	50	0	0	0	0	7	40	3
TOTAL—	6852	729.7	50	0	0	0	0	7	40	3
BROADWATER										
Broadwater S. O.	3674	4082.7	150	1	0	2	6	40	86	15
TOTAL—	3674	4082.7	150	1	0	2	6	40	86	15
CARBON										
Carbon S. O.	6255	1279.0	80	0	0	1	0	35	42	2
Red Lodge	1988	4124.7	82	0	0	0	3	10	69	0
TOTAL—	8243	1965.3	162	0	0	1	3	45	111	2
CARTER										
Carter S. O.	1688	0.0	DID	NOT	REPORT					
TOTAL—	1688	0.0								
CASCADE										
Cascade S. O.	21578	1214.2	262	0	1	1	18	46	168	28
Great Falls	55982	8179.4	4579	1	18	40	70	737	3534	179
TOTAL—	77560	6241.6	4841	1	19	41	88	783	3702	207
CHOUTEAU										
Chouteau S. O.	4159	553.0	23	0	0	0	1	9	11	2
Fort Benton	1601	2373.5	38	0	0	0	1	5	31	1
TOTAL—	5760	1059.0	61	0	0	0	2	14	42	3
CUSTER										
Custer S. O.	3496	1201.4	42	0	0	0	2	4	34	2
Miles City-Custer	9116	3016.7	275	0	0	2	7	27	223	16
TOTAL—	12612	2513.5	317	0	0	2	9	31	257	18
DANIELS										
Daniels S. O.	1331	751.3	10	0	0	0	0	1	9	0
Scobey	1251	799.4	10	0	0	0	0	0	10	0
TOTAL—	2582	774.6	20	0	0	0	0	1	19	0
DAWSON										
Dawson S. O.	5277	0.0	DID	NOT	REPORT					
Glendive	5150	1689.3	87	0	0	1	0	11	69	6
TOTAL—	10427	834.4	87	0	0	1	0	11	69	6
DEER LODGE										
Deer Lodge S. O.	9931	6051.8	601	0	0	0	6	119	464	12
TOTAL—	9931	6051.8	601	0	0	0	6	119	464	12
FALLON										
Fallon S. O.	1323	0.0	DID	NOT	REPORT					
Baker	2153	1161.2	25	0	0	0	0	8	15	2
TOTAL—	3476	719.2	25	0	0	0	0	8	15	2

AGENCY	1988 POPULATION	CRIME RATE	CRIME INDEX	HOMICIDE	RAPE	ROBBERY	ASSAULT	BURGLARY	LARCENY	MVTHEFT
FERGUS										
Fergus S. O.	5688	1107.6	63	0	0	0	1	14	46	2
Lewistown	6527	3677.0	240	0	0	0	5	31	195	9
TOTAL—	12215	2480.6	303	0	0	0	6	45	241	11
FLATHEAD										
Flathead S. O.	38259	3557.3	1361	1	18	3	28	267	933	111
Columbia Falls	3380	3106.5	105	0	1	1	2	10	85	6
Whitefish	4269	5317.4	227	0	0	0	4	43	164	16
Kalispell	11889	9891.5	1176	0	0	5	26	96	991	58
TOTAL—	57797	4963.9	2869	1	19	9	60	416	2173	191
GALLATIN										
Gallatin S. O.	23675	1507.9	357	0	4	1	7	76	247	22
Bozeman	23767	3176.7	755	0	1	1	5	84	640	24
West Yellowstone	921	9554.8	88	0	0	0	0	10	70	8
MSU Campus Police			187	0	0	0	2	3	180	2
TOTAL—	48363	2867.9	1387	0	5	2	14	173	1137	56
GARFIELD										
Garfield S. O.	1589	0.0	DID	NOT	REPORT					
TOTAL—	1589	0.0								
GLACIER										
Glacier S. O.	11123	0.0	DID	NOT	REPORT					
TOTAL—	11123	0.0								
GOLDEN VALLEY										
Golden Valley S. O.	1092	1190.5	13	0	0	0	1	4	8	0
TOTAL—	1092	1190.5	13	0	0	0	1	4	8	0
GRANITE										
Granite S. O.	2681	3394.3	91	0	0	0	3	27	54	7
TOTAL—	2681	3394.3	91	0	0	0	3	27	54	7
HILL										
Hill S. O.	7031	2659.7	187	1	0	0	6	51	115	14
Havre	10646	5222.6	556	1	0	3	11	57	447	37
TOTAL—	17677	4203.2	743	2	0	3	17	108	562	51
JEFFERSON										
Jefferson S. O.	6666	1440.1	96	0	0	0	6	15	66	9
Boulder	1577	2156.0	34	0	0	0	2	5	26	1
TOTAL—	8243	1577.1	130	0	0	0	8	20	92	10
JUDITH BASIN										
Judith Basin S. O	2483	80.5	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	0
TOTAL—	2483	80.5	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	0
LAKE										
Lake S. O.	20855	1783.7	372	0	4	1	2	95	211	59
Polson			90	0	0	0	2	14	71	3
Ronan			10	0	0	0	0	3	3	4
St. Ignatius			8	0	0	0	0	1	3	4
TOTAL—	20855	2301.6	480	0	4	1	4	113	288	70

AGENCY	1988 POPULATION	CRIME RATE	CRIME INDEX	HOMICIDE	RAPE	ROBBERY	ASSAULT	BURGLARY	LARCENY	MVTHEFT
LEWIS & CLARK										
Lewis & Clark S. O.	19732	2721.5	537	2	2	0	27	85	403	18
Helena	24711	8231.2	2034	0	4	7	52	239	1651	81
East Helena	2033	2361.0	48	0	0	0	2	1	44	1
TOTAL---	46476	5635.2	2619	2	6	7	81	325	2098	100
LIBERTY										
Liberty S. O.	2284	1313.5	30	0	0	0	1	6	21	2
TOTAL---	2284	1313.5	30	0	0	0	1	6	21	2
LINCOLN										
Lincoln S. O.	17611	4707.3	829	0	0	2	21	179	569	58
Eureka	1258	2782.2	35	0	0	0	0	11	24	0
TOTAL---	18869	4578.9	864	0	0	2	21	190	593	58
MADISON										
Madison S. O.	5661	1819.5	103	0	0	0	3	26	64	10
TOTAL---	5661	1819.5	103	0	0	0	3	26	64	10
MCCONE										
McCone S. O.	2483	120.8	3	0	0	0	0	0	1	2
TOTAL---	2483	120.8	3	0	0	0	0	0	1	2
MEAGHER										
Meagher S. O.	2085	0.0	DID	NOT	REPORT					
TOTAL---	2085	0.0								
MINERAL										
Mineral S. O.	3476	0.0	DID	NOT	REPORT					
TOTAL---	3476	0.0								
MISSOULA										
Missoula S. O.	43830	3164.5	1387	1	15	11	51	228	990	91
Missoula	34028	9315.9	3170	4	9	15	33	408	2535	166
TOTAL---	77858	5853.0	4557	5	24	26	84	636	3525	257
MUSSELSHELL										
Musselshell S. O.	4469	2282.4	102	0	0	0	0	36	65	1
TOTAL---	4469	2282.4	102	0	0	0	0	36	65	1
PARK										
Park S. O.	6052	2445.5	148	0	3	0	6	34	99	6
Livingston	6163	5387.0	332	0	1	1	13	47	260	10
TOTAL---	12215	3929.6	480	0	4	1	19	81	359	16
PETROLEUM										
Petroleum S. O.	596	0.0	DID	NOT	REPORT					
TOTAL---	596	0.0								
PHILLIPS										
Phillips S. O.	2925	2359.0	69	0	0	0	4	12	35	18
Malta	2438	2830.2	69	0	0	0	0	0	69	0
TOTAL---	5363	2573.2	138	0	0	0	4	12	104	18
PONDERA										
Pondera S. O.	3737	829.5	31	1	0	0	0	8	22	0
Conrad	2817	2413.9	68	0	0	0	0	7	59	2
TOTAL---	6554	1510.5	99	1	0	0	0	15	81	2

AGENCY	1988 POPULATION	CRIME RATE	CRIME INDEX	HOMICIDE	RAPE	ROBBERY	ASSAULT	BURGLARY	LARCENY	MVTHEFT
POWDER RIVER										
Powder River S. O	2284	1488.6	34	0	0	0	1	8	24	1
TOTAL—	2284	1488.6	34	0	0	0	1	8	24	1
POWELL										
Powell S. O.	6852	0.0	DID	NOT	REPORT					
TOTAL—	6852	0.0								
PRAIRIE										
Prairie S. O.	1589	0.0	DID	NOT	REPORT					
TOTAL—	1589	0.0								
RAVALLI										
Ravalli S. O.	22143	1481.3	328	1	3	2	10	56	230	26
Hamilton	2883	7422.8	214	0	0	0	2	17	185	10
TOTAL—	25026	2165.7	542	1	3	2	12	73	415	36
RICHLAND										
Richland S. O.	6348	1087.0	69	0	0	0	1	14	49	5
Sidney	5668	4040.2	229	0	2	0	5	25	189	8
TOTAL—	12016	2480.0	298	0	2	0	6	39	238	13
ROOSEVELT										
Roosevelt S. O.	11123	3074.7	342	0	0	2	12	70	240	18
TOTAL—	11123	3074.7	342	0	0	2	12	70	240	18
ROSEBUD										
Rosebud S. O.	12215	1301.7	159	0	0	0	0	43	105	11
TOTAL—	12215	1301.7	159	0	0	0	0	43	105	11
SANDERS										
Sanders S. O.	7158	1564.7	112	0	1	0	17	30	59	5
Thompson Falls	1581	1075.3	17	0	0	0	0	2	13	2
TOTAL—	8739	1476.1	129	0	1	0	17	32	72	7
SHERIDAN										
Sheridan S. O.	2862	1257.9	36	0	0	0	2	11	19	4
Plentywood	2401	2790.5	67	0	0	0	0	14	49	4
TOTAL—	5263	1957.1	103	0	0	0	2	25	68	8
SILVER BOW										
Silver Bow S. O.	33467	5178.2	1733	2	2	12	27	358	1215	117
TOTAL—	33467	5178.2	1733	2	2	12	27	358	1215	117
STILLWATER										
Stillwater S. O.	6157	1413.0	87	0	0	0	7	26	53	1
TOTAL—	6157	1413.0	87	0	0	0	7	26	53	1
SWEET GRASS										
Sweet Grass S. O.	3079	2046.1	63	0	0	0	1	24	36	2
TOTAL—	3079	2046.1	63	0	0	0	1	24	36	2
TETON										
Teton S. O.	6058	1254.5	76	0	0	0	3	15	54	4
TOTAL—	6058	1254.5	76	0	0	0	3	15	54	4

AGENCY	1988 POPULATION	CRIME RATE	CRIME INDEX	HOMICIDE	RAPE	ROBBERY	ASSAULT	BURGLARY	LARCENY	MVTHEFT
TOOLE										
Toole S. O.	5164	1800.9	93	0	1	0	0	9	77	6
TOTAL---	5164	1800.9	93	0	1	0	0	9	77	6
TREASURE										
Treasure S. O.	993	0.0	DID	NOT	REPORT					
TOTAL---	993	0.0								
VALLEY										
Valley S. O.	4950	1373.7	68	0	0	0	2	13	48	5
Glasgow	3591	4789.8	172	0	0	1	3	17	136	15
TOTAL---	8541	2810.0	240	0	0	1	5	30	184	20
WHEATLAND										
Wheatland S. O.	2185	1281.5	28	0	0	0	1	11	16	0
TOTAL---	2185	1281.5	28	0	0	0	1	11	16	0
WIBAUX										
Wibaux S. O.	1291	619.7	8	0	0	0	0	0	7	1
TOTAL---	1291	619.7	8	0	0	0	0	0	7	1
YELLOWSTONE										
Yellowstone S. O.	31745	2595.7	824	1	5	7	20	196	545	50
Billings	78490	7571.7	5943	4	29	56	44	1088	4476	246
Laurel	7145	1049.7	75	0	0	0	3	3	64	5
TOTAL---	117380	5828.9	6842	5	34	63	67	1287	5085	301
GRAND TOTAL - - -	**804000**	**4002.9**	**32183**	**21**	**124**	**178**	**611**	**5359**	**24203**	**1687**

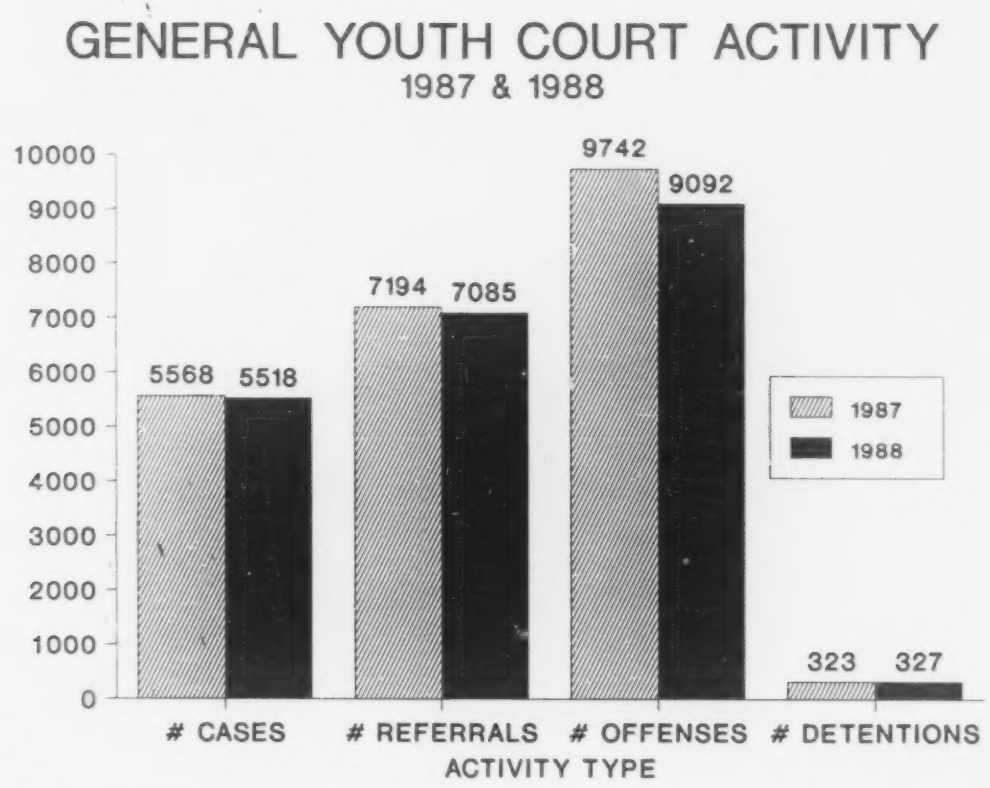
SECTION SIX

JUVENILE PROBATION INFORMATION SYSTEM

GENERAL ACTIVITY

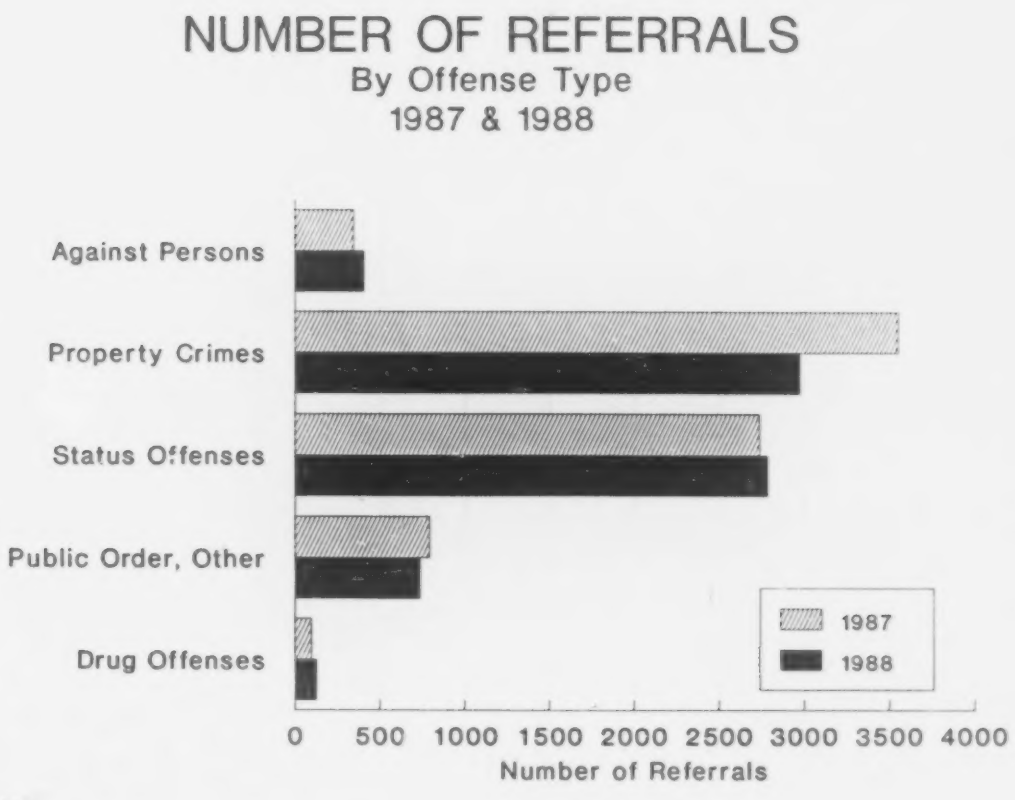
The general activity of the Juvenile Probation offices (a part of the Youth Court), is typically measured in four component parts: number of cases, number of referrals, number of offenses, and number of detentions. The chart below compares these measures of activity for 1987 and 1988.

Cases may be thought of as individual youth who become involved with the juvenile justice system for some reason, criminal or not. In 1988, 5,518 cases were reported on JPIS which is 50 cases less than 1987. The 5,518 cases were **referred** to the probation office 7,085 times throughout the year. In other words, some of the 5,518 youth were involved with the probation office more than once during the year; a ratio of about 1.28 referrals per case. It is the repetitive cases which tend to be defined as the more serious offenders. The 5,518 cases incorporated 9,092 **offenses**, down 650 offenses from the prior year. **Secure detentions**, the final measure of Youth Court activity, totaled 327 youth held in jail or other secure facility in 1988, which is 4.6 percent of the referrals to Juvenile Probation. 1988 detentions were up 1.2 percent from the prior year (323 youth were detained in 1987). By far, most of the youth detained were held in adult jails. In addition, most of the Youth Court activity, for any year, involves males.



REASON FOR REFERRAL

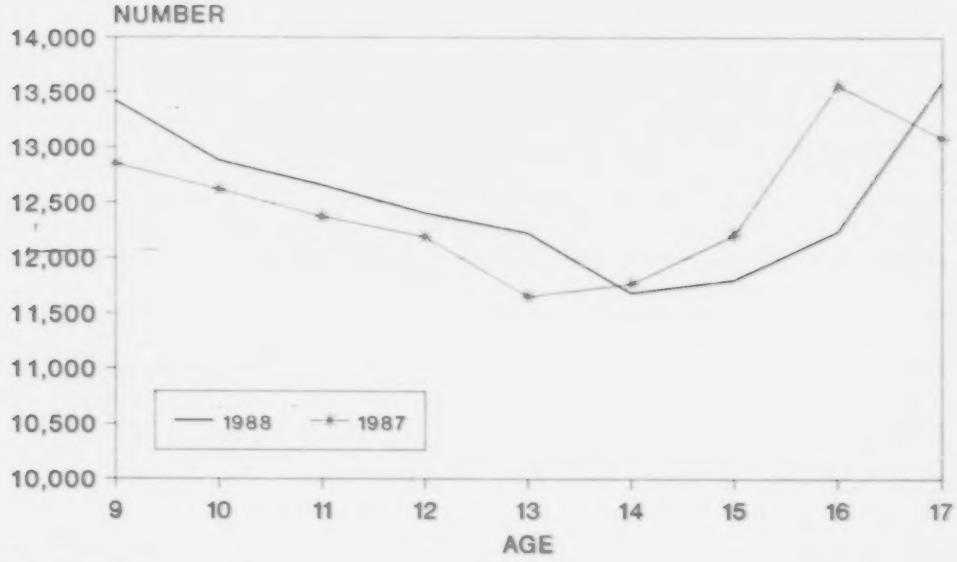
Currently, five major categories or reasons for referral construct the measure of referrals to the Youth Court: 1) Crimes against persons; 2) Property crimes; 3) Status offenses; 4) Offenses against the public order; and, 5) Drug offenses. Crimes against persons, by their violent nature, command the most attention yet these make up few of the referrals. Crimes against persons seldom fluctuate a great deal as a percentage of the total referrals for a year. Because of the increased attention on drug related offenses, the chart below includes information on the number of referrals for drug offenses. Implementation of the Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1988 and the Drug Free Schools and Communities Act of 1988 may well affect this number in future years. This graph compares the number of referrals for these categories for 1987 and 1988. Property crimes decreased during 1988, but crimes against persons showed a slight increase.



NUMBER OF YOUTH AT RISK

The following graph compares the number of youth considered to be at risk (age 9 through 17 years) for 1987 and 1988. The population dynamics are illustrated in the chart showing the 'bulge' in 16 and 17 year old youth in passing to adulthood. Consideration of the number of future referrals to juvenile probation should be in context of the total number of children in Montana who are "at risk", or how many children in the state who may potentially be referred for an offense of some type. This graph presents the potential changes. During 1988 there were an estimated 112,914 children ages 9 through 17 at risk and most were 16 and 17 years old. Looking at the graph, we can see another 'bulge' of youth approaching the critical ages. The increasing number of youth now 9 years old and younger will increase the key "at risk" group ages (14-15) in a few more years.

Number of Youth At Risk
Ages 9 to 17
1987 & 1988

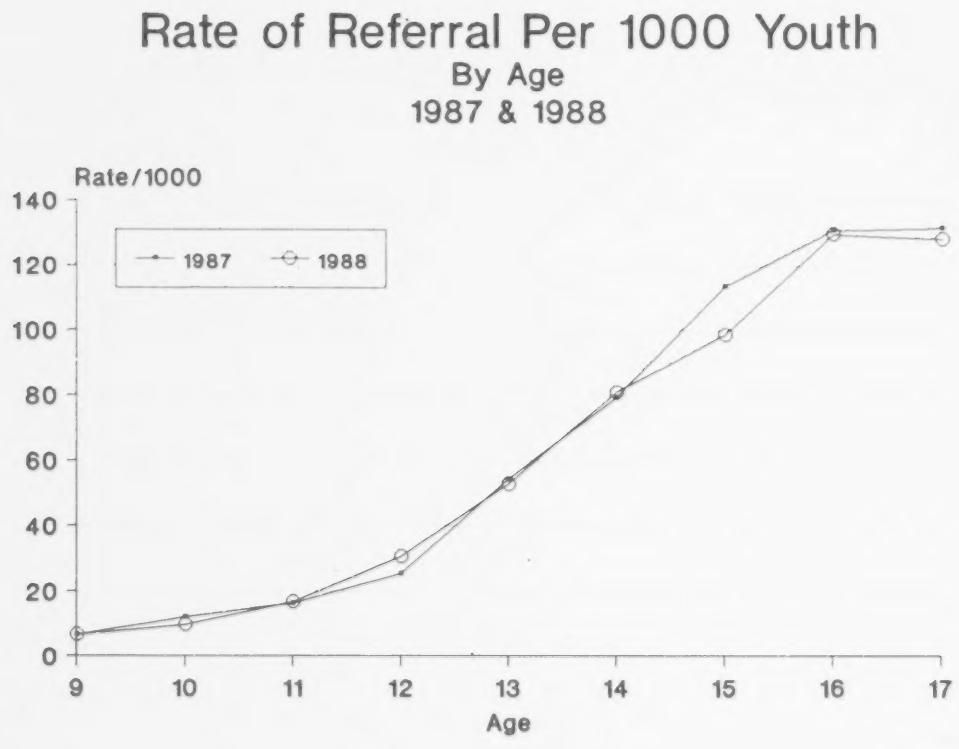


1987 total=112,319
1988 total=112,914

source:McQuiston, UM, 1984

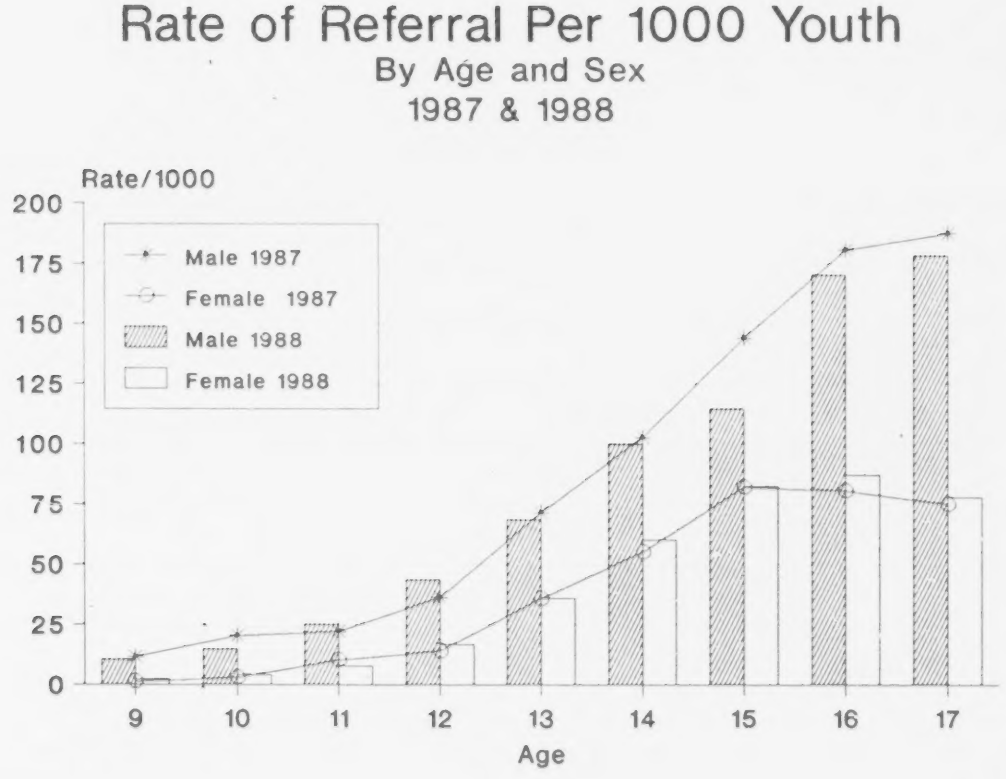
RATE OF REFERRAL
BY AGE

The number of youth at risk and JPIS information on the age at referral are used to calculate a rate of referral per 1,000 youth at risk for each age. This, as noted before, can help to pin-point critical ages and potential changes in Youth Court activity. The next chart compares the rates of referral for 1987 and 1988, showing few major differences. The rate of referral generally reveals a straight line increasing from about age 12 through age 16, and then a slower increase after age 16. Thus, those youth coming age 15, 16 and 17 present the highest risk of referral. As the number of children in these ages increases, the activity of the Youth Courts may also increase. The peak rate of referral in 1988 was about 135 referrals for every 1,000 youth age 16, just very slightly higher than the rate of referral in 1987. On the other end, and equally important, is the rate of referral for the very young. For every 1,000 children age 9, approximately 7 were referred to juvenile probation. Year to year changes at this age have been slight.



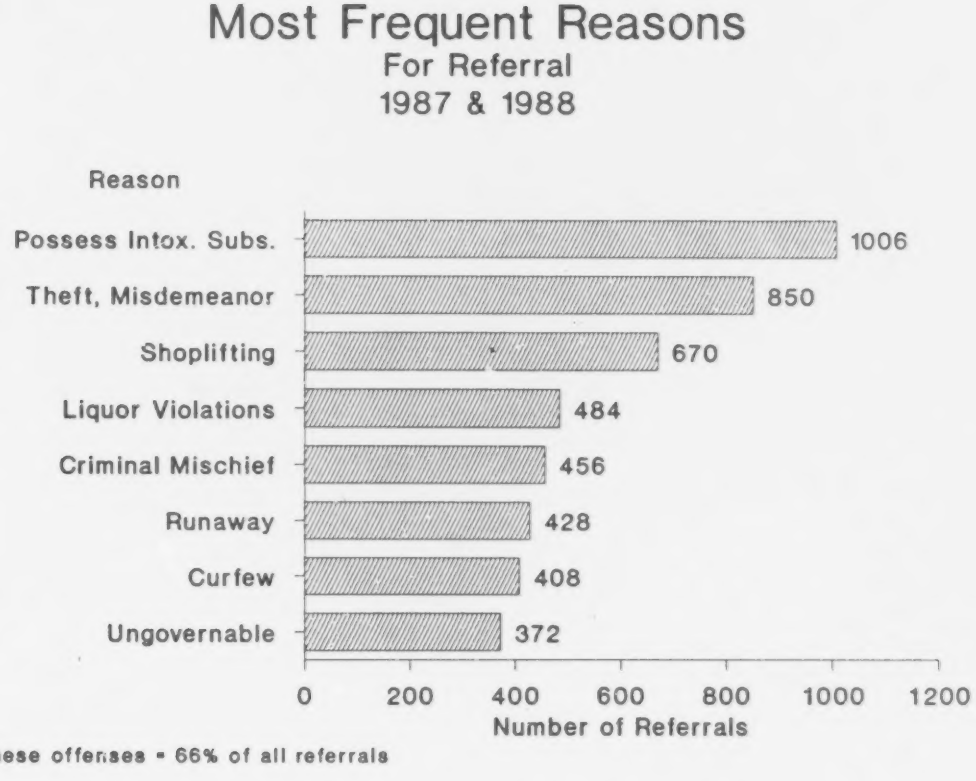
RATE OF REFERRAL BY AGE AND SEX

The nearly straight line increases for the overall rate of referral shown in the graph on the preceding page has interesting inconsistencies when the sex of the youth is considered. These are seen in the graph below, which shows the differences in the rate of referral per 1,000 boys versus girls when age 15 or 16 are reached. (The graph also shows the differences between 1987 and 1988.) The rate of referral for boys continues to increase to age 17, for both 1987 and 1988, whereas at age 15 girls show a leveling and even a decline between age 16 and 17. In addition, this chart shows the referrals to be predominately males in the 16 and 17 year old group. The peak referral rate for males is almost 200 per 1,000 boys age 17 while female referrals peak at about 80 per 1,000 girls age 16. The patterns seem to have been consistent year to year. The charts on pages 62 and 63 add more dimension to the rate of referral for a cohort of youth now age 18 (adults no longer subject to the Youth Court).



MOST FREQUENT
REASON FOR REFERRAL

The graph on page 50 illustrated the major reasons for referral to the Youth Court. In the following graph, we see the top eight specific reasons for the referral. In 1987, misdemeanor theft topped the list, but in 1988 the most frequent reason for referral was possession of an intoxicating substance. It is followed by misdemeanor theft in 1988 representing about 12% of the total referrals. The chart shows a mixture of criminal offenses with status offenses among the eight major reasons. Curfew violations, runaways and some of the liquor law violations are all offenses only for minors and are of special concern to juvenile justice.

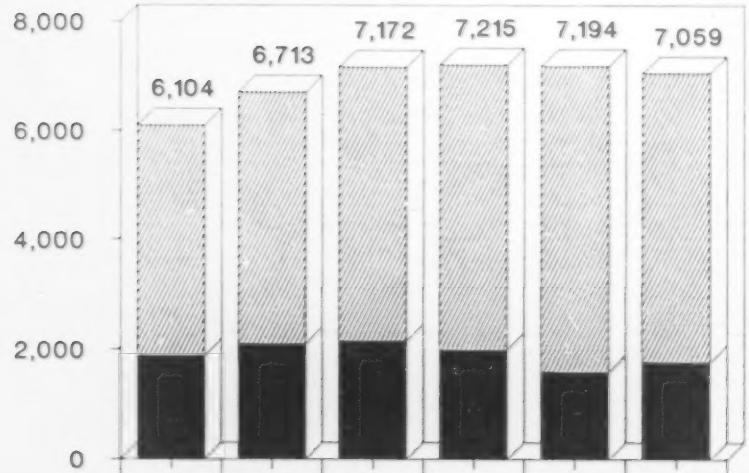


These offenses = 66% of all referrals

COMPARISON OF REFERRALS

Referrals to juvenile probation are often broken into the criminal offense (delinquent) and the status offense (sometimes called YINS). The following figure compares these types of referrals across a six year span. Remarkably, the percentage of status offenses remained fairly consistent over the past years (about 30%). 1984 and 1985 saw general increases in total referrals after a low in 1983. However, the total number of referrals is shown basically constant from 1985 through 1988. During 1988 the percentage of status offenses increased about 25% over 1983.

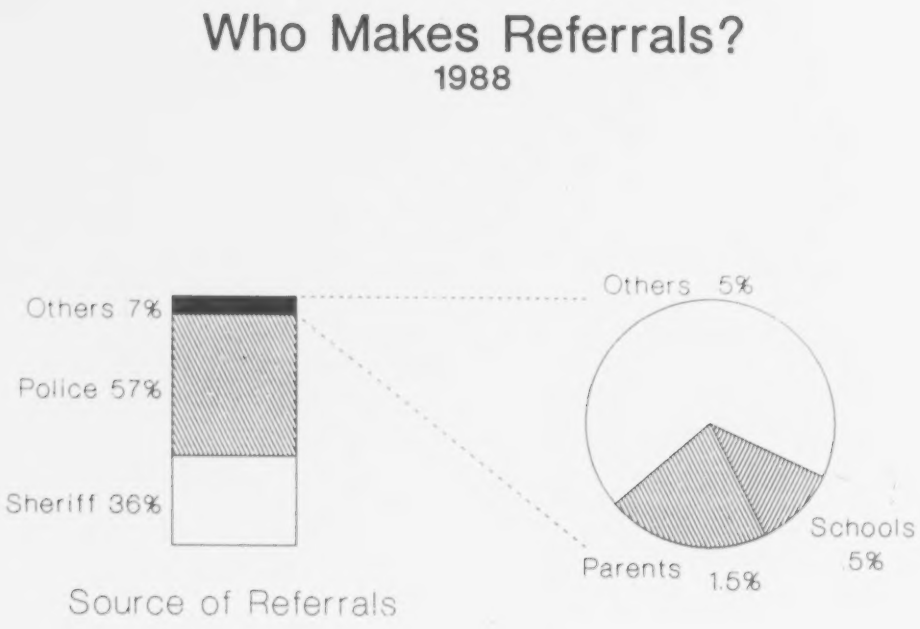
Total Referrals
Yearly Comparison by Type



	83	84	85	86	87	88
Criminal Offense	4,218	4,616	5,023	5,224	5,595	5,281
Status Offense	1,886	2,097	2,149	1,991	1,599	1,778

WHO MAKES REFERRALS?

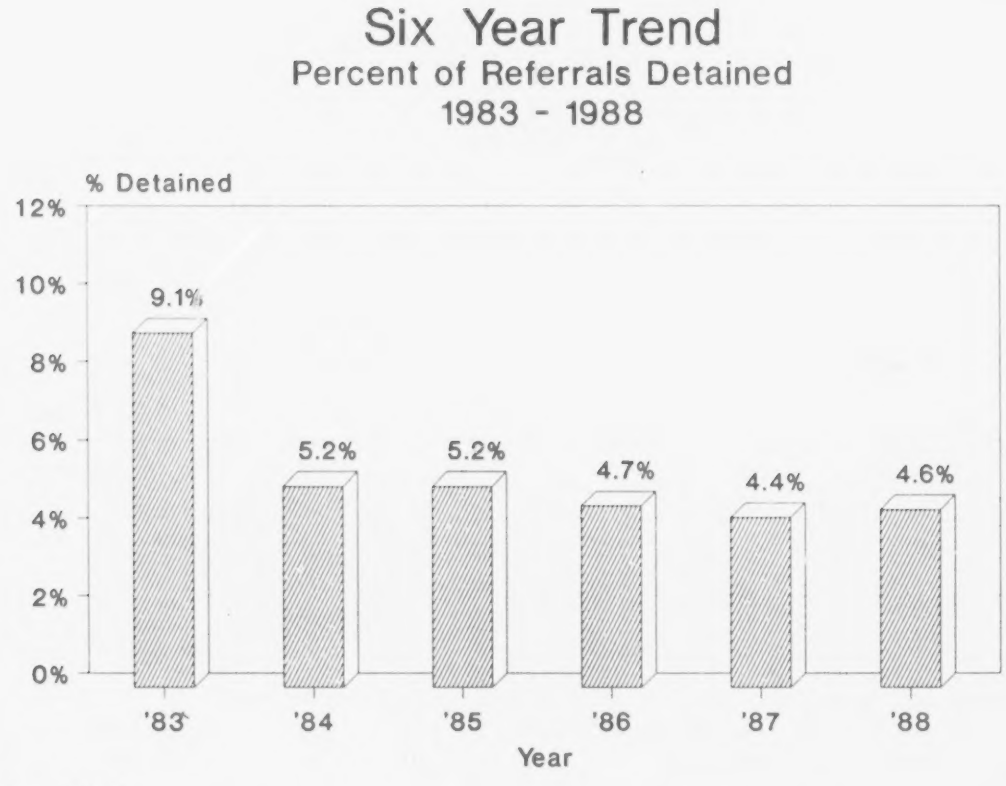
Figure 8 makes it clear that law enforcement agencies are the prime referral source for youth. In 1988, the Police departments and Sheriff's offices accounted for 93% of all referrals. The remaining 7% is composed of a wide variety of referral sources including Fish, Wildlife and Parks, tribal courts, parents, or school officials. With 9 of 10 referrals involving law enforcement agencies, programs aimed at early intervention, diversion, and reduction of secure detentions should also address law enforcement needs and problems. The percentage of law enforcement referrals increased 1% during 1988 from the 92% of the prior year.



n=7085

PERCENT OF REFERRALS DETAINED

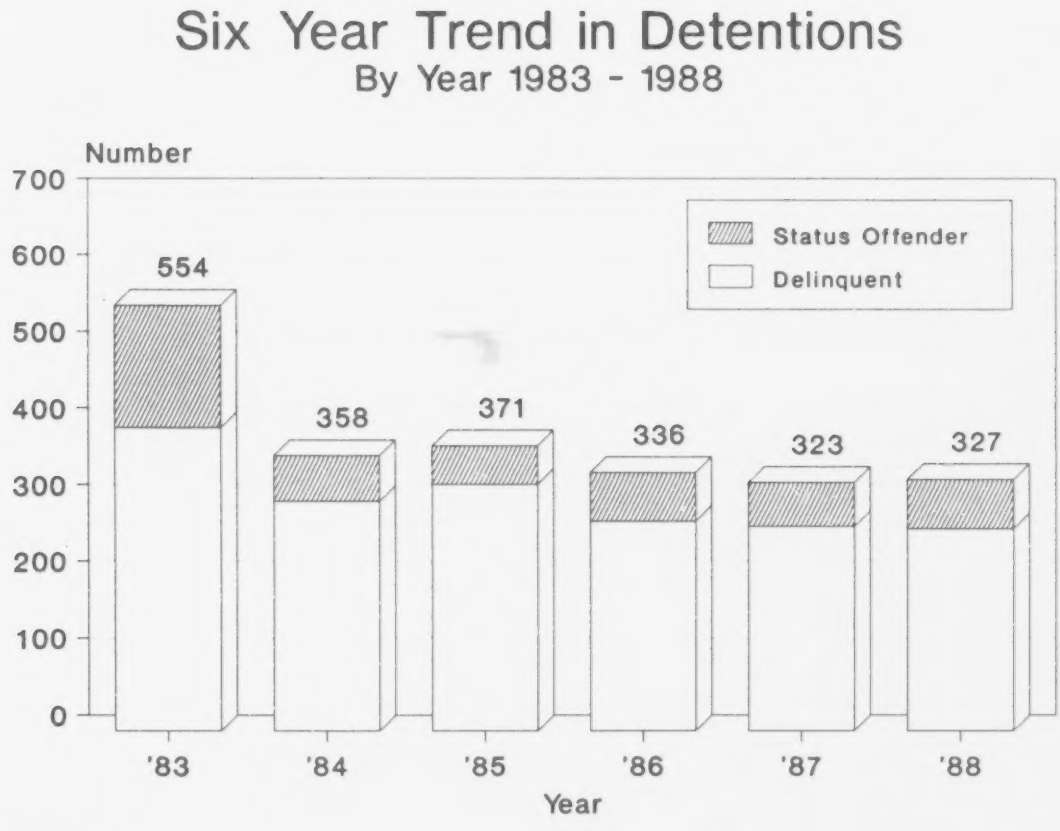
The percentage of all referrals resulting in secure detention (generally an adult jail), affects planning for the removal of all juveniles from adult jails and Montana's efforts to meet the mandates of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act. Figure 9 shows the reduction of the number of youth placed in adult jails. This trend remains a primary goal of the Youth Services Advisory Council. Over the years a substantial reduction in the percentage of referrals detained has been evidenced and is being maintained. In the past, 25 to 27 percent of the referrals were detained. Over the last 5 year period, the percentage of referrals detained remained near or under 5%. For the first time, 1986 saw the percentage of referrals detained fall below 5%. In future years, neither continued drops nor great increases are anticipated. The five year pattern of near or under 5% detentions is most encouraging.



'88 n = 7085

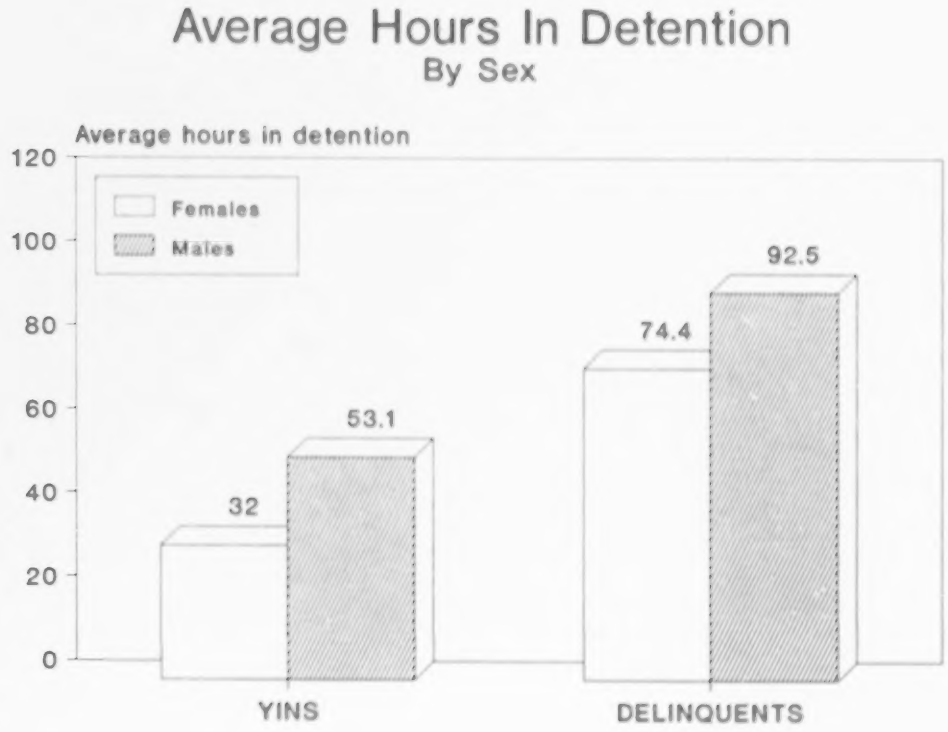
THE NUMBER OF DETENTIONS

The graph below translates the percentage of referrals detained into the real number of secure detentions which occurred in 1988. The number of detentions of youth in 1988 was 327, up 4 youth from the prior year. The graph shows detentions of both status offenders and delinquents. The percentage of detentions which were status offenders increased slightly from 18% in 1987 to 19.5% in 1988. An important goal is to reduce the detention of status offenders to zero. A crucial consideration behind the data presented here is the very small numbers of detainees per year. When status offenders are eliminated from consideration, the remaining number of secure detentions is so small that effective and cost efficient solutions are difficult to develop. It is also important to note that the status offenders detained were generally held less than 24 hours or were from other jurisdictions.



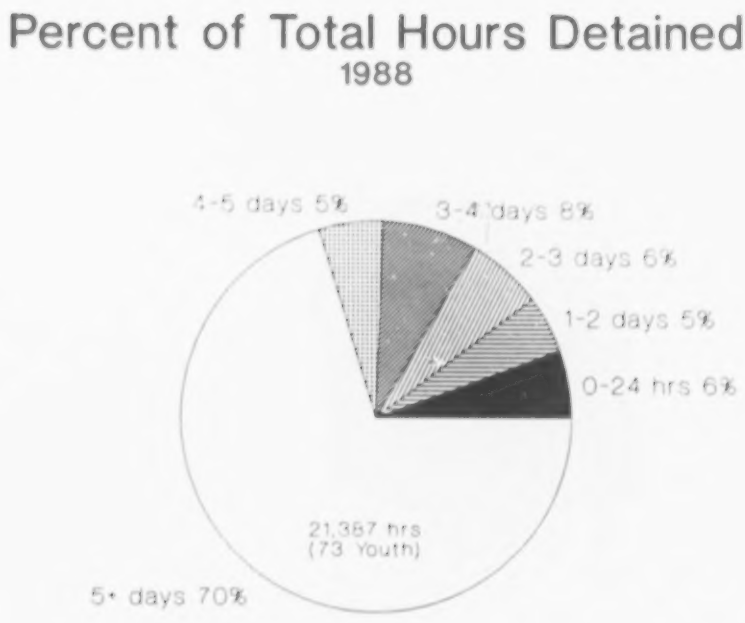
TIME DETAINED BY SEX AND TYPE OF OFFENSE

JPIS data indicate that there are differences in the average amount of time a youth is detained based on the nature of the offense (delinquent vs status) and the sex of the offender. The pattern is similar year to year for YINS to be detained less time, but the sex pattern is not so consistent. In 1987, YINS girls were held about 17 hours longer than boys on the average. In 1988, we see from the chart below that boys were held almost 21 hours longer on the average. For delinquents the sex pattern tends to be more stable, with males usually held longer than females. The amount of that difference, though, is quite variable.



TOTAL HOURS DETAINED

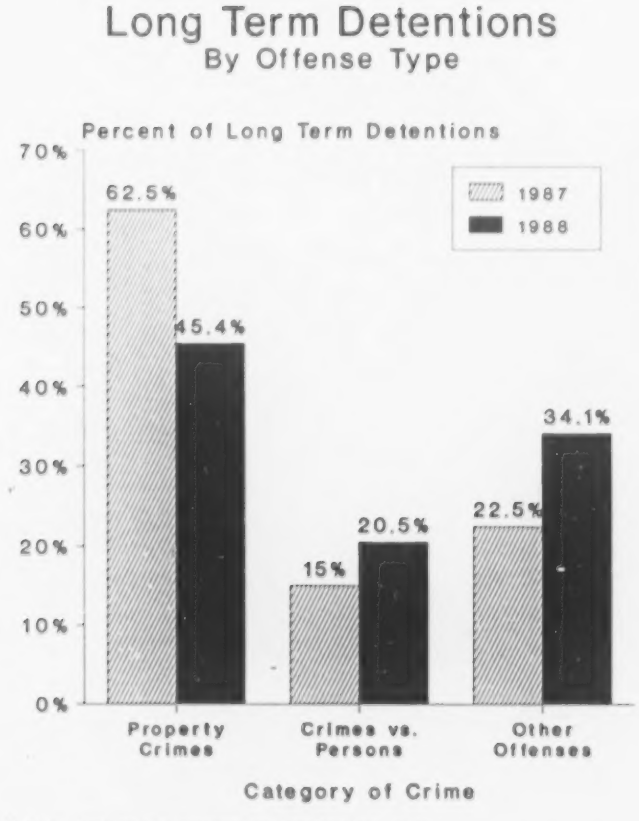
The 327 youth detained in 1988 amassed a total of 30,452 hours spent in secure detention across the state (which is 1,269 days or about three and a half years of accumulated time). The total time accumulated is about 3,900 more hours than the total time accumulated in 1987. Thus, even with just four more youth detained in 1988, the accumulated time was much more than in prior years. The pie chart shows how the total hours accumulated were distributed by the length of time detained. A key point is, the youth who are detained long term, over five days, account for **almost three quarters** (70%) of all the time accumulated by all detainees. This means that the 73 youth detained five or more days accumulated 21,387 of the total 30,452 hours in detention (which equals 891 days or 2.4 years). On the average, then, these 73 youth were held 293 hours each. By addressing the long term detainee issue, the major factor in the amount of time spent in adult jails will also be addressed. The average daily population of long term detainees for 1988 would have been about 2.4 youth per day.



70% of the total 30,452 detention hrs.

REASON FOR LONG TERM DETENTION

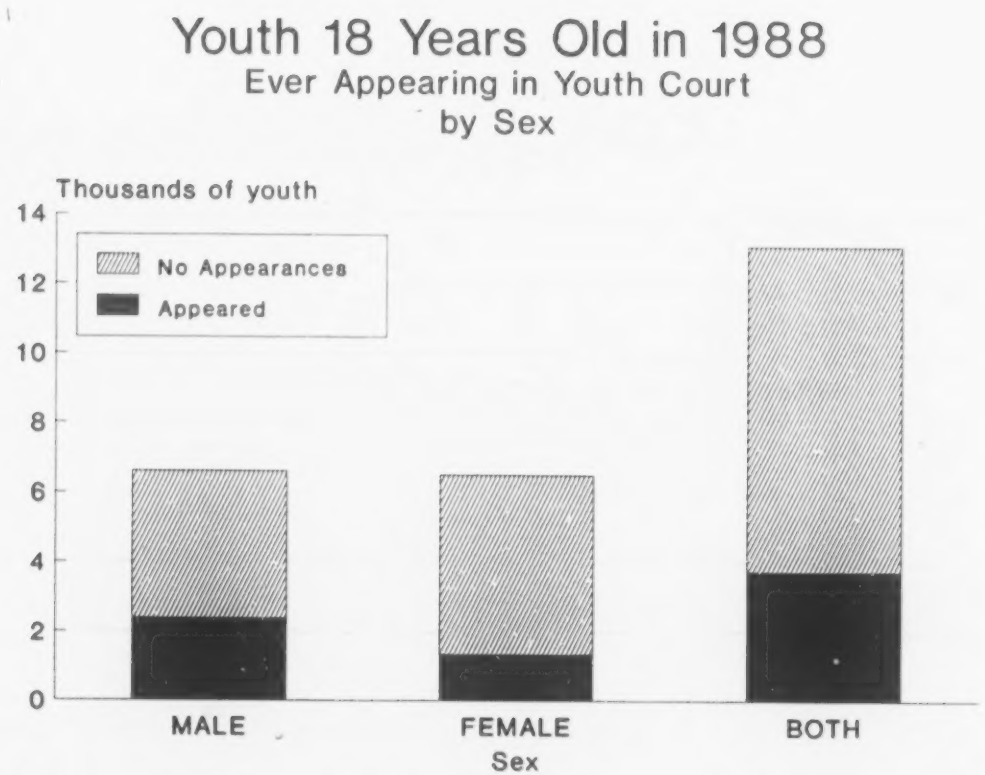
The 73 youth held long term (five plus days) were placed into secure detention for a variety of offenses. The major reasons are shown below. The most common reason for long term detention is a property crime. Recall that overall there are few crimes against persons committed by juveniles relative to the number of property crimes. This in no way detracts from the seriousness of those crimes against persons, but relates to the number of youth detained. Property crimes are followed by other offenses. This chart compares the years 1987 and 1988 which shows an increase in the percentage of long term detentions for crimes against persons and a reduction in long term detentions for property offenses. The total number of long term detentions in 1987 was 80 compared to 73 in 1988.



Other includes runaway,probation vio., etc. N=73. Long term= 5 days +

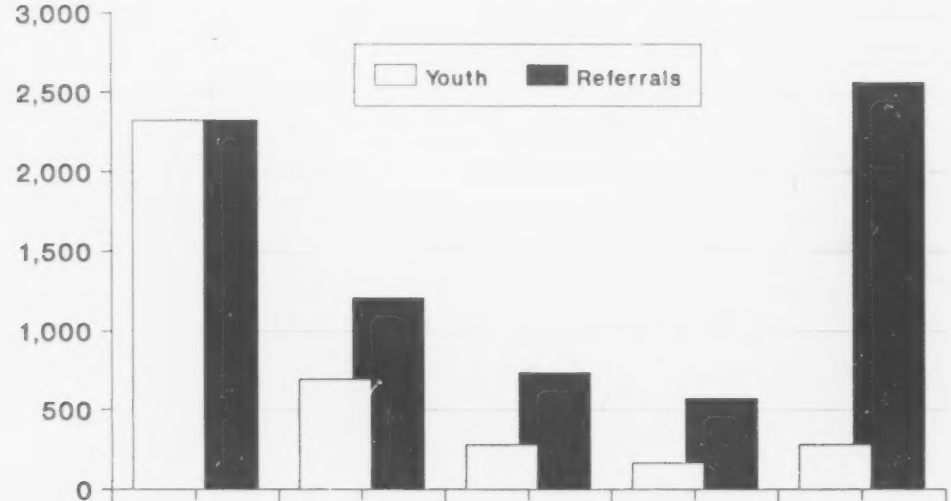
THE CLASS OF '88

One way of looking at the problem of delinquency is to take a glance at the aberrant tendencies of one specific age group (cohort). To achieve this perspective, let's examine the class of '88. That is, of the youth in 1988 who became legally adults (turned 18), how many walked through the doors of the Youth Court at one time or another? We cannot examine data on each and every youth, but we do know about how many youth turned 18 (See pages 49-51). While we cannot control variables such as out migration from the state, the chart below shows about 13,100 youth turned 18. About 6,600 were males and 6,500 females. This chart illustrates that just over 2,000 of the males made a Youth Court appearance at some time, while about 1,500 of the girls did. Considering both sexes, under 4,000 (3,746) of the 13,100 youth in that age cohort became involved with the Youth Court to some extent.



The extent of their involvement is estimated in this final chart which looks at repetitive referrals to the Youth Court. We can see that the bulk of the youth had but a single 'run in' with the Youth Court. On the other hand, the graph below shows the small number of the youth (281 out of about 13,100) who had extensive involvement of being referred at least five times, perhaps more often. Based on these numbers, under 11% of all the youth in this age cohort had more than 1 referral to Youth Court up to age 18. Stated in the positive, just over 90% of the class of '88 had no or one referral to Youth Court

Court History of 18 Year Old Youth
1988



	1	2	3	4	5+
Youth	2,324	694	282	165	281
Referrals	2,324	1,203	733	573	2,563

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